

Britain isolated over draft treaty

Delors clashes with Hurd on federal Europe

From George Brock in Luxembourg

DOUGLAS Hurd clashed with the European Commission president Jacques Delors yesterday over plans for what amounts to a United States of Europe.

The foreign secretary flatly refused to commit Britain to an eventual federal European government only to be told by M. Delors: "This is all far too important to take into consideration a momentary political problem in one member state."

The sharp exchanges, at a foreign ministers' meeting in Luxembourg, came three days after the prime minister had declared his determination that Britain should not be sidelined in Europe. But Britain found itself virtually isolated in opposing the draft of a treaty setting out unprecedented federal aims.

If signed in its present form, the treaty would include explicit long-term commitments to federal government, joint military forces and a single currency. For the first time in the Community's 35-year his-

tory, a legal document would refer to its "federal goal". The wording fulfils the worst fears of Margaret Thatcher, who in her Bruges speech of 1988 vowed that Britain would never accept a United States of Europe.

That speech led to the formation of the Euro-sceptic Bruges Group, which last week criticised John Major's stance on economic and monetary union and accused him of being frightened to use the veto to stop the imposition of a single currency.

Yesterday, Mr Hurd urged his fellow foreign ministers to leave out direct reference to the creation of the single currency and emphasised that Britain was against any wholesale transfer of powers to Brussels for key policy areas such as security and defence. At a press conference later, he said that Britain did not intend to be committed to the federal goal "or something of that kind". The Community's founders had been wise not to insert explicit federalism in the founding Treaty of Rome. They had talked only about "ever closer union". "We are prepared to see it come ever closer," he said.

Mr Hurd insisted: "We are not seeking to close any windows or slam any doors," but said that if the majority were unable to persuade Britain, then a political treaty could not be achieved.

Mr Delors told the meeting that member states must look to the long-term future and not nicker over details for short-term benefits. The European now being shaped was designed to meet the needs of generations to come. Later, he said that he thought part of the problem was linguistic. The word federalism had a different meaning in English, having come to be associated with "perverse" such as the forbiddingly Soviet state.

True federalism allowed states to unify policies as far as possible. "Unity in diversity can only be achieved through a federal structure," he said. Britain's objection to federalism was backed only by Portugal and Denmark, and even Danish support was fading last night. Britain's other reservations attract

equally small numbers of allies and the meeting revealed a change of mood among most other members, who are running out of patience with London's doubts.

An earlier Anglo-French alliance, which successfully opposed an immediate federal system, has dissolved and been replaced by a more traditional gulf between London and Paris over the EC's ultimate goals. France raised no objection to the federal commitment yesterday, and has suggested that the treaty say that the new intergovernmental conference in 1996 should concentrate on the development of the Community's common foreign and defence policy.

Recent controversy over Europe at Westminster has focused on economic and monetary union. Similar tensions can now be expected over the work of the parallel conference on political union when the EC heads of government meet in ten days. Luxembourg, which holds the EC presidency, will by then have produced a comprehensive new document on monetary and political union. Jacques Poos, Luxembourg's foreign minister, said yesterday that he expected the federal commitment to stay in the treaty that is due to be signed at the end of the year.

The clashes yesterday are likely to widen the rift in the Conservative party over Europe and the debate will be fuelled by Mrs Thatcher's address on nationhood to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations last night. Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, dismissed the proposed treaty, saying: "Delors doesn't think about countries any more. He wants Europe and when he gets Europe, he will want the world."

George Foulkes, the shadow foreign minister, said of Mr Hurd's attitude: "This shows that Mrs Thatcher is still guiding the government's policy on Europe. It shows, too, that John Major's apparent enthusiasm for the Common Market is just a smokescreen."

Crunch on EC, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Kurd-Iraq talks are at 'dead end'

By David Watts, Diplomatic Correspondent

NEGOTIATIONS between the Kurds and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq have reached a dead end and more aid is urgently needed to protect refugees who have returned to their homes, according to European Community foreign ministers.

After their meeting yesterday, Jacques Poos, Luxembourg's foreign minister, said he would be contacting Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general and the United States government to see what fresh help could be provided. "The negotiations between the Kurds and Saddam Hussein are at a dead end and the Kurdish people

who decided to return to their homes in the protection zones in the north of Iraq feel terribly insecure," he told a news conference in Luxembourg. "We must therefore improve the protection of these people," he added.

Mr Poos said the Community was determined to maintain the UN economic sanctions against Baghdad to prevent any repetition of the offensive against Iraq's Kurds and Shia minorities that forced some two million refugees into the mountains. "We will not return to business as usual with Iraq."

Policy defended, page 7

De Klerk reads last rites over apartheid

By Our Foreign Staff

THE South African parliament yesterday voted to repeal the Population Registration Act, seen as the cornerstone of apartheid. President de Klerk said that statutory racial discrimination had now been removed.

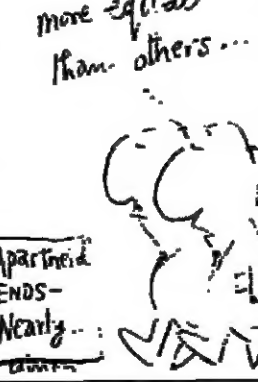
The African National Congress, welcoming the repeal of the act, repeated its call for sanctions to stay. It said that while "blatantly racist practices" continued in state expenditure on social services "in reality little will have changed".

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said that he was pleased at the end of classification by race, but was disappointed that Mr de Klerk had not apologised for the suffering caused.

Abolition of the registration law was opposed only by the right-wing Conservative party. The vote in the white House of Assembly was 89 to 38, with 11 abstentions.

Constitution call, page 8

Some votes are still more equal than others...



Ministers seek faster cuts in interest rates

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor, and George Sivel

THERE is growing pressure within the government on Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to move faster in reducing interest rates.

Colleagues believe that the 3.5 per cent reduction since last October has not made sufficient political impact because the cuts have come in small instalments. There are complaints in Tory ranks that the Treasury has been too cautious and that Mr Lamont is too respectful of City and market reactions.

There are hopes that the prime minister's broad hint that there will be no election until 1992 will enable Mr Lamont to convince the markets that he is not acting from political motives in any further interest rate cuts. Ministers are pressing him to make a bold gesture when pressures on the pound ease.

The pound yesterday fell to its lowest level for more than a year against its main trading

partners' currencies on political concerns and continued depression in the high streets. British authorities took the bold view that, in the words of one official, sterling is still trading well above the bottom of its European exchange rate mechanism band and was "not in danger territory".

Sterling's trade-weighted index fell a further 0.4 to 89.4, its lowest since June 11 last year. Sterling fell after retail sales were reported to have fallen 0.3 per cent in May.

The weakness of the pound against European currencies in the ERM raised concerns that the scope for further base rate cuts from the present 11.5 per cent was limited. However, the key three-month rate at which banks lend each other money closed at around 11.25 per cent, half way towards base rates of 11 per cent.

Against the German mark the pound closed at DM2.2919, down 1.47 pence on the day. But the

pound's weakness in Europe was complicated by the continuing weakness of the peseta. The Spanish government is attempting to index pay deals in return for a 1 point cut in Spanish interest rates.

That weakened the peseta's lead over the weaker currencies in the ERM from just over 6 per cent to 4.7 per cent by yesterday's close. Bankers calculated that this would reduce the pound's floor against the German mark in the ERM to DM2.8730, two pence below last week's implied floor.

Interest rates plus, page 7
Pound sinks, page 21

Labour seeks action on 'false' election claim

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR is seeking to prosecute its Militant opponents in the Liverpool, Walton, by-election over alleged false accusations made in an election pamphlet.

Labour is complaining that the claim in the leaflet that Lesley Mahmood is the "Real Labour candidate democratically selected by Walton Labour party members" is completely false and could mislead voters in the election

on July 4. It is also complaining to the Crown Prosecution Service about personal attacks on Peter Kilfoyle, the official Labour candidate.

There have been allegations that rebel Broad Left candidates, successful in the recent local elections, managed to win only because voters were fooled into supposing they were official candidates.

Soft words, page 6



Tough talks: Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, arriving at Stormont yesterday, when the representatives of unionism and nationalism met over a table for the first time in 16 years. Report, page 20

Sparkling spring water from the pub tap

Landlords have come up with a legal way of selling tap water at up to £1.10 a glass. Nick Nuttall explains

Bars, hotels and restaurants across Britain have discovered a way of turning humble tap water into a higher-priced sparkling drink that looks and, it is claimed, tastes fresh from the spring.

The drink, which goes under the enticing and some would say cheeky name of sparkling spring water or mineral water, can cost the landlord as little as four or five pence.

The beauty is that the canny barman can sell the draught water for up to £1.10 or the same price as a glass of Perrier. Buxton or any other of the genuine drinks which have come from an aquifer, or underground source.

At least three companies in Britain are offering the kit which allows a landlord to purify, filter, carbonate and serve the water direct from the mains. He can also buy bottles and labels and serve his "home brew" to guests at the table, rather like Perrier or Highland Spring.

Several thousand establishments have now switched to the sparkling system. Makers of the kits claim they are breaking no laws and that the treatments are not only hygienic but leave in the same kind of minerals that people pay for in the supermarket rivals.

They also claim that having a do-it-yourself machine saves space on shelves and the vagaries of deliveries. They dispute that the public is being fooled.

Bernard Edwards of Aqua Cure, a company based in Southport, Lancashire, which makes one of the kits, said that the company used a three-stage purification system which removes contaminants and some levels of minerals such as iron and calcium.

He said the system used such products as china clay and ion exchange resins to do the job and ultra violet to kill bugs. Mr Edwards described the drink as "a

Continued on page 20, col 2

TODAY IN THE TIMES

MUSICALS

Julian Stale has spent 30 years trying to escape the shadow of his greatest success: writing the music for *Saved Days* Page 13

LAWYERS

If Alan Dershowitz is on the case, American defendants breathe more easily. How does he manage to justify his own hype? Page 29

RACING

Everyone who should be there will be there... Royal Ascot is with us once more, hats, thoroughbreds, Lester Piggott and all Page 33

INSIDE

Hanson opposes ICI sale

Hanson, widely believed to be preparing a takeover bid for ICI, is likely to oppose a sale of ICI's pharmaceutical arm. The Times understands that Hanson, as part of merger proposals outlined to ICI, suggested an expansion in pharmaceuticals. It is understood that Hanson has no plans for an early bid. Page 23

Shake-up plans

Plans for the biggest reorganisation in 20 years of local government in Scotland and Wales, including a single tier of authorities, have been unveiled. Page 2

Seeds chosen

Stefan Edberg and Monica Seles are the top singles seeds for Wimbledon which starts next week. Page 36

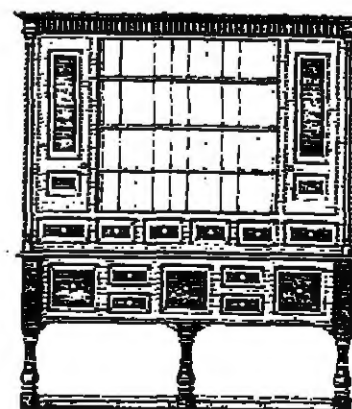
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Talks begin on local government reforms but ministers reject national assemblies

Blueprint for Wales redraws boundaries

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A BLUEPRINT for a radical re-drawing of local government boundaries in Wales was unveiled by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, yesterday.

Brushing aside renewed calls for a Welsh assembly, Mr Hunt announced proposals for the creation of 20 new all-purpose authorities to take over from the eight county and 37 district councils in the principality.

Mr Hunt insisted that calls for a Welsh assembly were irrelevant to his proposals for a fundamental reorganisation of local government along unitary lines.

He said: "This consultation exercise is about local government and I do not regard the assembly as being about the same thing at all. Those who advocate a Welsh assembly want it to control me and the Welsh Office rather than local government."

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, announced the start of consultations on the future of local government in Scotland. The government wants unitary authorities to replace the nine regional and 53 district councils.

Mr Lang gave no details except to state that the three island councils, covering Ork-

ney, Shetland and the Western Isles, which are already unitary authorities, would be exempted from the review.

The Scottish and Welsh plans were announced almost three months after Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, had announced proposals for the abolition of one of the two tiers of local government in most of England.

Consultation on Mr Heseltine's proposals closed last Friday. He intends to set up a commission to oversee the redrawing of council boundaries in England, London and the metropolitan areas, which already have unitary authorities, will be exempted from the plan. The Welsh and Scottish secretaries had decided not to set up special commissions to oversee their reform plans and set a deadline of October 31 for the completion of consultation.

The proposals unveiled by Mr Hunt are the most detailed of the three plans for local government reorganisation. Although his consultation document included alternative plans for the creation of 13 and 24 unitary authorities Mr Hunt told a press con-

ference that the scheme for 20 new councils was the government's preferred option.

The plan was given a cautious welcome by the Welsh county councils which had proposed that they should become the new unitary authorities. The districts, which also wanted to become all-purpose councils also welcomed the document.

The plan for 20 new councils is based on some existing county and district council boundaries but would lead to the resurrection of historic counties like Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire as all-purpose authorities in their own right. At present the

names live on only as district councils. The plan would also give new powers to councils in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea as well as giving much of Monmouthshire back its county status.

The Welsh and Scottish secretaries said that the government would need to be convinced that the proposed changes would reduce costs, increase efficiency and improve democratic accountability in the provision of local services.

Although the Scottish consultation paper contained no details, it suggested that Scottish cities might be given their own unitary status to run all their own affairs.

Opposition MPs denounced the government yesterday for ruling out Scottish and Welsh regional assemblies but gave a general welcome to the prospect of single-tier local authorities (Peter Mullan writes).

Barry Jones, the shadow Welsh secretary, described the plans as "unbalanced" by the lack of an assembly which, he said, was vital to the reform of local government. The proposals were "timid" and a "missed opportunity".

Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, said that there was a case for one tier all-purpose authorities but in the wider context of a Scottish parliament controlling Scotland's domestic affairs.

HOW WALES LOOKS TODAY

GWYNEDD
1. Ynys Môn
2. Arfon
3. Aberconwy
4. Dwyfor
5. Meirionnydd
CLWYD
6. Colwyn
7. Rhuddlan
8. Debyn
9. Alyn & Deeside
10. Glyndwr
11. Wrexham Maelor
POWYS
12. Montgomeryshire
13. Radnorshire
14. Brecknock
DYFED
15. Cardigan
16. Preseli Pembrokeshire
17. South Pembrokeshire
18. Carmarthen
19. Dinefwr
20. Llanelli
WEST GLAMORGAN
21. Lliw Valley
22. Swansea
23. Neath
24. Port Talbot
SOUTH GLAMORGAN
25. Gyr
26. Rhonda
27. Cynon Valley
28. Merthyr Tydfil
29. Rhymer Valley
30. Taff-Ely
SOUTH GLAMORGAN
31. Vale of Glamorgan
32. Cardiff
33. Blaenau Gwent
34. Islwyn
35. Torfaen
36. Newport
37. Monmouth

CUTTING THE COUNCILS OF WALES

How the proposals would reduce the number of local authorities in Wales from today's eight county and 37 district councils to 20 authorities

HOW WALES COULD LOOK

1. Ynys Môn
2. Gwynedd
3. Aberconwy and Colwyn
4. Vale of Gwent
5. Wrexham Maelor
6. Montgomeryshire
7. Carmarthen
8. Pembrokeshire
9. Brecon and Radnor
10. Neath and Port Talbot
11. Swansea
12. Gower
13. Glamorgan Valleys
14. Glamorgan
15. Vale of Glamorgan
16. Merthyr and Rhymer
17. Cardiff
18. Gwent Valleys
19. Blaenau Gwent
20. Monmouth

Smith keeps up pressure for minimum wage

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership yesterday underlined its determination to press ahead with a national minimum wage in defiance of the big craft unions. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said that a future Labour government would not ignore the plight of the low-paid by abandoning plans to require employers to pay at least half average male earnings.

His stance at the conference in Blackpool of the EETPU, the electricians' union, was a direct riposte to Eric Hammond, its general secretary. Only 24 hours earlier at the same conference, Mr Hammond had attacked the proposal, warning Labour that it could cost the next election by alienating skilled workers who feared that their earnings would be held down to pay for increases at the bottom. Mr

Smith said that increasing the wages of the low-paid would help to end their exploitation. "On these people we will not turn our backs. We need to introduce a statutory, enforceable, legal minimum wage."

With the 740,000-strong Amalgamated Engineering Union also challenging the minimum wage, unions representing more than a million skilled and highly paid workers are at loggerheads with the Labour leadership. Mr Smith recently defended the policy at the conference of the GMB, the general workers' union, one of the big unions backing it.

The Conservatives have not been slow to exploit the split. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, has said that Mr Hammond's intervention demonstrates that the scheme was "dead in the water" and the prime minister has warned that it would cost up to two million jobs.

Mr Howard returned to the attack last night, saying that Mr Smith had stripped away his mask of moderation and revealed himself to be a prisoner of socialist dogma. "By stubbornly sticking to a policy which has been denounced by City bankers and union leaders, Labour MPs and independent economists, the OECD and even the Fabian Society, John Smith has now thrown away that last chance to preserve his image of economic prudence," he said.

Senior shadow cabinet sources, however, took a relaxed view of the internal tensions over the wages plan. One frontbencher said it would do the party no harm to be seen to be standing up to trade union barons. A minimum wage appeal to the electorate's sense of fairness and was difficult for the Tories to attack effectively.

Stress link to cot deaths

Cot deaths may be triggered by the stress suffered by babies going their first night without food, according to researchers. They believe metabolic defects may leave some babies unable to respond to stress by producing extra blood sugar and other substances to help the brain to control breathing and heart rate.

Paediatricians at Newcastle upon Tyne medical school are starting a three-year study to identify how stress affects babies' metabolism, and possibly predict which babies are most at risk. They believe some babies could be particularly vulnerable to relatively minor stress if abnormal metabolisms could be identified, dangerous stresses could be predicted and avoided.

Nearly 2,000 babies die unexpectedly every year in the UK, most aged between three and six months. Research funded by a £200,000 appeal launched this week will concentrate initially on about 50 children in the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Dublin damages

An Irish police officer who was punched in the face when he visited a prisoner in hospital was yesterday awarded record damages of £425,000 in the Dublin High Court. Detective Gerard O'Connell, aged 38, who was attacked by the prisoner at St James's hospital, Dublin, in February 1988, has since been retired compulsorily from the police and is suffering from epilepsy and multiple sclerosis.

Building plans

Sheffield polytechnic yesterday announced the biggest building and reconstruction programme in higher education since the new universities. The first phase, due for completion by March 1993 and designed to allow a 25 per cent increase in students, will cost £13 million and will provide new student accommodation and teaching space.

Majorca clue

Police hunting for a missing Down's Syndrome woman with a mental age of 10 were checking a report that she may be on the Mediterranean island of Majorca. A returning holidaymaker said she saw someone who could have been 21-year-old Jo Ramsden, who disappeared from Bridport, Dorset, on April 9. She was with a man resembling the one Jo was seen with on the day she vanished.

Labour rift over help for Lloyd's names

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR frontbenchers were at odds last night over a scheme to ease the financial burden on Lloyd's underwriting names facing losses of up to £100,000 because of disasters in the insurance market.

Ministers are also approaching the proposed lifeboat operation with trepidation because about 60 MPs, including several ministers, are among the 26,550 names pressing for assistance. Last night, Tory MPs warned the whips against any action that could be seen as bailing out the rich. The Conservative critics are embarrassed that so many colleagues are among the potential beneficiaries of a concession and they fear that it could set a dangerous precedent for other business casualties of the recession.

Nicholas Brown, an Opposition Treasury spokesman, yesterday backed a concession being considered by the Treasury under which the finance bill would be amended this week to give tax relief on losses dating back three years. Lloyd's is about to declare record losses of around £500 million for 1988, and the amendment would enable hard-pressed underwriters to set their losses against profits in previous years. To be of any immediate help, the legislation would have to be retrospective.

However, Michael Meacher, Labour's chief social security spokesman, called the proposal "insider dealing in democracy" and urged the government not to intervene. He was backed by Dennis Skinner, a member of the party's national executive, who said it would be outrageous if tax relief were offered "because they have played the game and lost".

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, and John Wakeham, the energy secretary, are the four cabinet names at Lloyd's. John Maples, a junior Treasury minister, is also one of its underwriters, and Tory MPs were saying last night that if the concession were granted he would have to be moved to another ministry.

Bar Council plans selection system

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar Council is to abolish the traditional "open door" policy that allows entry to the profession to anyone with a second-class degree, subject to certain minimum entrance requirements. Instead, it plans a rigorous selection system that will exclude some 500 of the estimated 1,200 applicants a year who seek a place on the one-year professional course.

The principle of selection, the main recommendation of a committee chaired by Lord Justice Taylor, the Court of Appeal judge, was agreed by the council last month. Detailed proposals of how selection will work are to come before a meeting next month.

The selection policy is based on an estimated 400 to 500 vacancies a year at the Bar, a figure which tallies with the number of funded pupils.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, Bar chairman, said yesterday he

regretted that there had to be any selection policy at all. "However, we have to do something about the rising numbers. We have no option. Last year 900 applied to the Council of Legal Education; this year we estimate the figure will be 1,200."

The Bar selection policy coincides with a recent Law Society decision to scrap the "first come, first served" admissions policy to its professional course run by the College of Law's five branches and some 10 polytechnics. From September, the institutions running the course will select on the basis of academic and other attainment.

The Taylor committee proposes selection based on 15-minute interviews conducted by a barrister, course lecturer and lay magistrate.

Law Times, pages 27, 29



Kayleigh Roberts, aged 3, of Allerton, Liverpool, was in a comfortable condition in hospital last night after emergency surgery in the wake of

an attack by an 11-year-old assailant on a recreation ground near Redgate, in St Helens, Lancashire. Police are interviewing the owner.

Scientist claims breakthrough in hydrogen power for cars

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN scientist claims to have developed a new system enabling the commercial use of hydrogen as a source of power for everything from cars to electricity stations.

The claim, by Dr Roger Billings, of the American Academy of Science in Kansas, is being investigated by British Gas, as natural gas could be used as a source of hydrogen for the new system. Known as LaserCel, General Motors, the world's biggest car maker which is about to manufacture its own electric car, is also said to be actively interested.

Motor manufacturers and energy companies have worked for decades to realise the potential of hydrogen but have encountered difficulties in storing the gas, which is highly explosive and has to be kept in high pressure containers, turning a car

powered by hydrogen into a mobile bomb. Dr Billings claims to have invented a fuel cell which can store hydrogen safely ready to be converted to electricity when needed.

The invention is certain to be greeted with scepticism by scientists who have been researching into hydrogen for several decades and have seen other "breakthrough" inventions, including the alleged discovery of cold fusion, debunked.

Manufacturers including BMW and Audi in Germany are running hydrogen-powered prototype cars successfully but say that gas storage is their greatest problem.

The system invented by Dr Billings is said to allow hydrogen to be stored as a metal hydride in a cell which, when fitted to a car, would weigh as little as 100lbs. The hydrogen could be created by

filling the fuel tank with water, which is then converted by electrolysis overnight using off-peak electricity.

Dr Billings says that 60 to 80 per cent of the hydrogen is turned into electricity, compared with the fuel-to-power ratio of a conventional petrol engine of 30 per cent. Early estimates say that a car using this technology would cost the equivalent of 68p a gallon of petrol to run.

A British-made Ford Fiesta has been fitted out as a demonstration car in America and a similar version could be brought to Britain at the end of the year.

The implications for the power generation industry are equally significant. Hydrogen can be taken from a variety of natural fuels, including coal, oil and gas, and stored for easy conversion back into electricity.

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Keep politics out of case, judge tells spy trial pair

By LIN JENKINS

THE judge in the trial of two men accused of helping the spy George Blake to escape from prison 24 years ago has warned them not to run a political defence or follow their intention to put the government on trial for its espionage practices in the 1950s.

Mr Justice Allott said yesterday at the start of the trial at the Central Criminal Court that he was aware, from the book written by Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle about their involvement, that they did not intend to contest the facts in the case, but warned them he would be very tough when the pair, who are conducting their own defence, cross-examine witnesses.

The judge referred to a passage in the book *The Blake Escape* where Mr Randle wrote: "Pat brilliantly exploited the leeway the judge felt obliged to grant him as an amateur among professionals to put forward arguments and to question witnesses in a way not open to counsel", and told them: "I will not have that in this court."

Julian Bevan, QC, for the prosecution, said that the book and a television documentary provided the only evidence against the two veteran peace campaigners, who kept a public silence about

their part in the springing of Blake from Wormwood Scrubs. "This is no fantasy dreamed up by two men who seek fame," he said. "It is the story of two men who believe they were justified, on moral grounds, to help free a spy sentenced to 42 years. They liked George Blake and regarded his sentence as inhuman."

Mr Pottle, aged 52, a former antique dealer, of Crouch End, north London, and Mr Randle, aged 57, a peace studies researcher, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, deny aiding Blake to escape from prison in October 1966; conspiracy with Sean Bourke to harbour an escaped prisoner between May and December of that year; and conspiracy with Bourke to assist Blake during the same period with the intention of "preventing, hindering or interfering with his being taken into custody".

Blake had pleaded guilty in May 1961 in the same court to five charges under the Official Secrets Act and was sentenced to 42 years for spying for the Russians. He escaped five years later.

Mr Bevan said it could have come as no surprise to the two men that they were arrested. He quoted a passage from the book: "If we are arrested and

the case goes to trial we intend to plead not guilty. This does not mean we will at any point deny that we helped Blake to escape. The not guilty plea would be a pure technicality to allow us to pursue our case and call witnesses to the kind of activities British and Western intelligence agencies were indulging in, in the period since the second world war."

The two men, who were active in the campaign for nuclear disarmament and members of the Committee of 100, launched in 1960 to oppose nuclear weapons, met Blake in prison when they were jailed for their part in the occupation of the US Air Force base at Wetherfield, Essex.

They took to him as a man and were outraged by a sentence they regarded as a death sentence and believed it "smacked of revenge by the British establishment". Mr Bevan said, Mr Pottle offered to help Blake to escape. When the three were released from prison, Bourke smuggled a walkie-talkie into Blake during visits and frequently jogged around the prison fences to check on the movements of guards. "The plan was, as you will gather from the book, simple in the extreme. The fact is that it worked," Mr Bevan said.

Mr Randle obtained £200 from a friend to fund the escape and Bourke bought a car and later 30 knitting needles with which to reinforce the rungs of a rope ladder. He also rented a room near the prison to be used as a safe house. There can be no doubt that they realised they were doing something which was, of course, illegal," Mr Bevan said.

Bourke was alone in helping Blake over the wall, but the others helped to hide him and when he eventually left the country it was in a secret compartment in a van driven by Mr Randle with his wife and young children as passengers. They drove through Belgium, West Germany and into East Germany. Blake eventually got out near Berlin. The trial continues today.



Pottle leaving court yesterday with his wife

Addict wife 'begged to be killed'

A FORMER marine throttled his drug-addicted wife to death as an act of mercy, a court was told yesterday. Christine Cummings, aged 38, begged him to end her misery after years of addiction to tranquillisers and painkillers.

Norman Cummings, aged 57, stunned her with a punch so that she would die without pain, before wrapping cord around her neck and strangling her, a jury at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court heard. Then he sat talking to her body, wrapped her in blankets to make her comfortable, and walked into his local police station 17 hours later to give himself up.

Cummings, who denies murder, wept as he was accused of murdering his wife in the bedroom of their home in Farringdon, Sunderland, last September. The couple had often discussed a suicide pact and Mrs Cummings had made attempts on her life.

James Spencer, QC, for the prosecution, said a defence psychiatrist had concluded that Cummings was suffering from severe reactive depression. He had an abnormality of mind which would have "substantially impaired his mental responsibility".

But Mr Spencer said Cummings "deliberately and efficiently killed his wife. When he strangled her he did that, intending to kill her and there is no justification for that. That was murder."

The trial continues today.

Rio flight clue to missing woman

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard believes that Rosemary Aberdour, the charity fund worker who disappeared last week as allegations came to light of a missing £1.7 million, caught a flight to Rio de Janeiro hours after being dismissed.

Yesterday, as Miss Aberdour's parents appealed for her to contact them, Yard Fraud Squad officers were making arrangements to launch a search for Miss Aberdour in Brazil. Britain has no formal extradition treaty with Brazil but it might be persuaded to expel her.

When a photograph of Miss Aberdour was published on Saturday a Special Branch officer remembered seeing her at Heathrow on her way to board a British Airways flight leaving at 10pm on Wednesday. She booked in her own name.

Miss Aberdour, aged 29, was dismissed on Wednesday from her £21,000-a-year job as deputy director of a foundation that helps the National Hospitals for Nervous Diseases. She had been told of the discovery of a forged signature on a cheque for £100,000. After a High Court action a lawyer for the fund went with Miss Aberdour, who called herself "Lady Rosemary Aberdour", to her £117,000-a-year flat overlooking the Thames and took away documents.

Holborn CID was investigating the case of the

cheque and the Fraud Squad was not brought in until Thursday, when the fund began to suspect more money might be missing. Yesterday police were checking details of Miss Aberdour's bank accounts. Her mother, Mrs Jean Aberdour, of Wickham Bishops, Essex, said she was deeply concerned about her.

Meanwhile, auditors at the three building societies holding the fund's money were checking to see if they will be held liable for the missing money after accepting forged cheques. Lawyers for the charity, set up to raise £10 million for rebuilding work, have told officials that the building societies will have to pay.

Scotland Yard has had difficulty reaching fugitives in Brazil and in 1974 failed to extradite Ronnie Biggs, one of the Great Train robbers.



Rosemary Aberdour: air ticket in own name

Vicar agonises over his £5m windfall

By TIM JONES

THE Rev Philip Auden, a Church of England industrial chaplain who worked with the unemployed of Kidderminster, will appear on Central Television next week to ask what he should do with £5 million he has inherited.

Whatever theological dilemma such a windfall causes for a man of the cloth, Mr Auden has already discovered it has had a profound effect on his personal life. Since news of his fortune became public, he has withdrawn his two sons, James and Lawson, from a comprehensive school in Kidderminster and placed them in a public school to minimise the danger of kidnap.

Mr Auden, 45, has raised a few clerical eyebrows by building a luxury home and driving a £20,000 Land-

Rover Discovery with a personalised number plate, H11 REV. His other car is a top-of-the-range Volvo.

The Audens learned of their inheritance after the funeral of a family friend, Tom Burns, a single man. He bequeathed his house near Evesham in Worcestershire, its land and contents and other properties to Mr Auden's mother-in-law, Monica Houghton, and to another friend. Mrs Houghton gave control of her share of the £10 million bequest to Mr and Mrs Auden.

Mr Auden says that on one occasion a congregation "went into hysterics" when he used the text that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. On Monday, on the television programme *Right or Wrong*,

he will say: "Of course one enjoys money, the freedom from worry about tomorrow, freedom from the next gas bill and how to pay it. But in terms of giving, what is one to do with it - give it all away?"

"I really don't know. The Bible says you can't serve God and serve money. But can money be used in the service of God?"

Mr Auden, who admits he has always been known as a "Flash Harry", said that he had received many letters of support. "But one or two were not so nice. Some of my colleagues made strange innuendos about financing this or that." One of the people who will give advice to Mr Auden on Monday is Father Pascal, a Franciscan monk who has taken a vow of poverty.



Mr Scargill (left) and Mr Heathfield (right) arriving at the Sheffield court yesterday to hear the government open its case over union finances

Scargill QC wins challenge over evidence

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's case against Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, over the union's financial accounts was weakened yesterday when a court rejected legal arguments about admissibility of evidence.

Ian Crompton, the Sheffield stipendiary magistrate, said that vital financial and other documents could not be brought as evidence by the government's trade union watchdog, the certification officer, because of the legal professional privilege between lawyers and clients.

Mr Scargill, Peter Heathfield, the union's general secretary, and the union are all pleading not guilty to charges that they "wilfully

neglected" to keep, control and send to Matthew Wake, the certification officer, proper accounts as required under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.

The case arises from allegations about the NUM's finances made last year by the *Daily Mirror* and *Central TV's Cook Report*. The NUM set up an enquiry, headed by Gavin Lightman, QC, and Mr Wake filed his case after the publication of the Lightman report. Each of the nine charges carries a maximum penalty of £400.

Counsel for the union and its two national officials argued throughout the day in court that the material which formed the basis of the

Lightman enquiry, including interviews between Mr Scargill and Mr Lightman, union minutes and financial records, including bank statements and receipts, were subject to professional legal privilege, and so were inadmissible as evidence.

Geoffrey Robertson told the court that the Lightman enquiry was not a police investigation. "What the certification officer is seeking to do in this case is to put a policeman's view, to turn him into a grand inquisitor, without any of the safeguards. There were no cautions to witnesses. No definition of charges. There were none of the safeguards that would

have applied had this been a police investigation."

Roger Ter Haar, counsel for the certification officer, said that the union had sent a copy of the Lightman report, and in doing so, had waived any question of privilege. Mr Crompton dismissed the claim that privilege had been completely waived, and in particular rejected the attempt by the counsel for the certification officer to win disclosure of important documents behind the Lightman report.

Lawyers for the union argued, without any dissent yesterday by counsel for the certification officer, that the Lightman report itself, though, would be inadmissible as evidence. Michael

Mansfield, QC, said it "compiles hearsay upon hearsay", and Mr Robertson said of Mr Ter Haar: "The Lightman report is not a document that my learned friend can rely upon for the purposes of making a case in these proceedings because it is an opinion."

Mr Robertson - one of four QCs retained by the union, together with Gareth Pearce, the solicitor who handled the Birmingham Six case - said it had to be in the public interest and even the national interest for public organisations to respond to allegations of this kind by taking authoritative opinion from a QC. The hearing continues today.

Professors help in child death cases

By CRAIG SETON

MEDICAL professors are helping police to establish whether the unexplained deaths of four babies and children among ten other children in a Lincolnshire hospital were caused by insulin poisoning.

Twenty officers are investigating the possible misuse of insulin in the cases of 14 children who suffered respiratory or cardiac collapse while being treated in the children's ward at the Grantham and Kesteven general hospital, Grantham, between January and last month. The four who died were all under six months old.

The enquiry started six weeks ago at the hospital's request, after a boy, aged 18 months, collapsed and was found by doctors to have an unusually high level of insulin in his blood. He made a full recovery. There was also concern that stocks of insulin at the hospital may not all have been accounted for.

The investigation is a criminal enquiry but police do not know whether there was anything suspicious in the deaths and illnesses of the children.

Hospital staff have been interviewed by police but neither the hospital nor the police would confirm or deny yesterday that a nurse questioned during the investigation was on extended leave.

The hospital's management called in the police to investigate possible misuse of a prescribed drug following unexplained illnesses among patients in the children's ward, which deals with youngsters aged from three months to 11 years. Staff were concerned that the condition of some children had deteriorated for no apparent reason.

Some of the older children who became ill and parents of the babies who died have been interviewed by detectives. Police have the medical records of all 14 children involved.

Inspector Trevor Barnes, of Lincolnshire police, said yes-

'Pool collision led to killing'

THE husband of a film chief was stabbed to death after a trivial collision with another swimmer in a pool, a Central Criminal Court jury was told yesterday.

Dietmar Kirchner, a photographer whose wife is managing director of Warner Bros (UK), was still in his swimming trunks when a knife was plunged three times into his chest, severing a vital artery, after the head-on collision with Christopher Sotiriou, the prosecution claims. Mr Sotiriou, aged 25,

pleads not guilty to murdering Mr Kirchner, aged 47, of Muswell Hill, north London, last July.

Graham Boal, for the prosecution, said that Mr Sotiriou fled to Cyprus after the killing and was arrested there five days later. He was later extradited to Britain.

In a statement read to the court, Mr Sotiriou, of Camden, north London, described how a swimmer with a German accent called him a "bloody idiot" for not looking where he was going after they

collided in Park Road swimming pool, Hornsey, north London.

He said that later, when the man lunged at him in the dressing rooms, he took out a knife and, "in a state of shock and anger", stabbed him once. Mr Sotiriou alleged that when the man grabbed at him again he stabbed him once or twice more to get him off.

After running from the pool Mr Sotiriou borrowed £1,000 to flee to Cyprus.

The trial was adjourned until today.

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Yes, at Timberland we are pleased to say most of our shoes, boots and clothes are still hand-sewn by man.

Of course, we could install machinery to do the job in half the time. Probably a lot cheaper too. But could these machines match the craftsmanship of the old boys who toil away in our workshop up in Hampton, New Hampshire? Somehow we doubt it.

Take our boat shoe for example. Just like the best shipwrights, we have to build these shoes with the finest materials to make sure they withstand storms, gales and anything else the ocean wants to dish out.

This rules out using just any old leather.

So we trek right across America to the few remaining tanneries who still know how to turn tough, full-grain hides into soft, durable shoe leathers.



After we've shipped the leathers all the way back to Hampton, the first thing we do is soak them in a vat of dye. That way, unlike those landlubbers who merely paint their shoes, ours will never lose their colour, even after

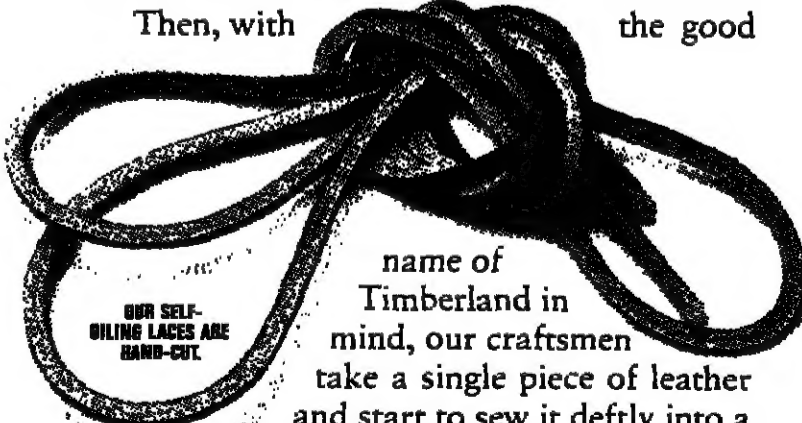


a lifetime at sea. And to keep them supple we also impregnate the leathers with silicone oils.

It's at this stage in the process, when most other manufacturers would be more than happy to let their machines start sewing. But not us.

To stop the leathers cracking we stretch them on geometric lasts, another job that can only be done correctly by man. After all, we have to watch for flaws as the leather stretches.

Then, with the good



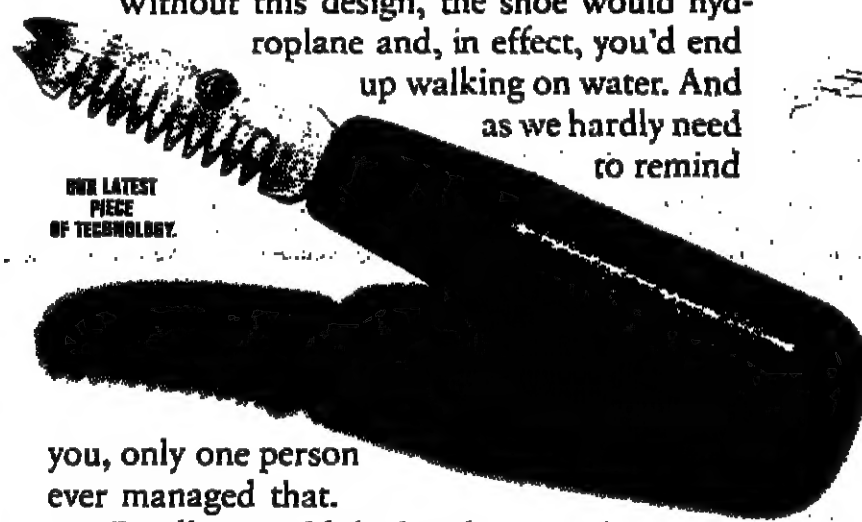
name of Timberland in mind, our craftsmen take a single piece of leather and start to sew it deftly into a moccasin. The Red Indians came up with this design hundreds of years ago. We simply recognised its unparalleled comfort and promptly stole it for ourselves.

Mind you, we have had some ideas of our own. Such as using high strength nylon thread to make sure the stitching won't ever come adrift. Sealing the seams with latex, to produce a barrier against the water. And injection moulding our midsoles to the uppers, creating a permanent, watertight bond.

A Timberland boat shoe's outsole also is designed with more thought than some people

give to designing boats. The tread, for instance, features a system of 'scuppers', channels which run the length of the sole, connected to outler gulleys along the edge.

Without this design, the shoe would hydroplane and, in effect, you'd end up walking on water. And as we hardly need to remind



you, only one person ever managed that.

Finally, we add (by hand, naturally), rustproof brass eyelets, self-oiling rawhide laces that won't rot and padded collars that provide a snug, watertight fit.

The result? A shoe perfectly suited to life on the ocean wave. (A fact borne out during the last America's Cup, when many of the crews wore Timberlands.)

Needless to say though, the hands of our craftsmen are adept at making other items too.

Like our walking shoes which have glove leather linings for comfort, and dual density polyurethane soles for lightness and durability.

And our split suede coats which are double stitched and waterproofed.

Fact is, every Timberland is built to be around as long as our customers. Perhaps longer. A claim machine-made products find hard to live up to.

Of course, maybe one day technology will make our way of doing things obsolete.

But we reckon that day's a long way off. After all, the equipment we use took four million years to develop.



Timberland shoes can be found at: Aspecto, Unit 24, Victoria Quarter, Leeds, Yorkshire LS1. Capolito Roma, Unit UG9, The City Plaza, Cannon Street, Birmingham B2 5EF. Lime's, 26/27 Sadler Gate, Derby DE1 3NL. Review, 20 Ironmarket, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs ST5 1RF. Wade Smith Shoes, Matthew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE. Class Clothing, 5 Crown Passage, Broad Street, Worcester WR1 3LL. Pavilion Clothing, 15/17 High Street Arcade, Cardiff CF1 2BB. Boggia, 5 Boscowen Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2QU. Gardener's Clothing, 26 Gandy Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3LS. Courtney's of Barnstable Ltd, 78 Bouthport Street, Barnstable, Devon. Badger Clothing, 25 Bond Street, Brighton, West Sussex BN1 1RD. Raffles, 15 Royal Star Arcade, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1JL. Spinners, 43 Marmion Road, Southsea, Hants. Nigel Holmes, 3 Park Street, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancs. Reporter, 16 Hood Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear SR1 3GE. Macra-Million, Avenue 1, 11/15 Covered Markets, Oxford OX1 3DX. Robert Old & Co, 20/21 Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2BH. Parks, Unit 40, Castle Court Complex, Royal Avenue, Belfast, N. Ireland. Mountain Air, 907/909 Fulham Road, London SW6 5HU. Timberland, 72 New Bond Street, London W1Y 6DD. Harrods, 5th Floor, Sports Dept, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1 7XL. Selfridges, Menswear, First Floor, Oxford Street, London W1A 1AB. Selfridges, Ladies Wear, Third Floor, Oxford Street, London W1A 1AB. Austin Reed, 103/113 Regent Street, London W1A 2JB. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Samuel Peppys, 9 Beresford Street, St. Helier, Jersey CI. Noble Jones, 7 Hill Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1SS. Ancaster Martins, Isle of Wight, 115 High Street, Cowes. Glenagles Jackie Stewart Shooting School, Glenagles Hotel, Perthshire PH3 1NS. Church shoe shops in selected Austin Reed branches.

Aids will kill millions in Africa 'after peak in West'

From Thomson Prentice, Medical Correspondent, in Florence

THE Aids epidemic will peak in Britain, America and Western Europe within the next three years but will surge ahead in Africa and Asia, killing millions of men, women and children, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

The number of people infected with HIV in the industrialised West is expected to reach about two million by the mid-1990s, but the spread will gradually slow thereafter, James Chin, head of the organisation's Aids surveillance and forecasting

Liz Taylor criticises US policy

ACTRESS Elizabeth Taylor yesterday likened American immigration restrictions on people infected with Aids to the tactics of Nazi Germany (Thomson Prentice writes).

Miss Taylor was speaking as one of the founders of the American Foundation for Aids Research (AmFar), during the conference in Florence. Her comments are likely to inflame a growing controversy over current US government policies towards foreigners with HIV or Aids who seek entry to America.

The policies have led already to threats by organisers to cancel next year's equivalent conference, scheduled for Boston. America's position has been attacked by the World Health Organisation and by the European Commission, and EC health ministers have said they will not participate in Boston unless the rules are changed.

"I don't think there should be any restrictions," Miss Taylor said. "If you start looking at people's passports you hark back to Nazi Germany. We are around people who have Aids every day. Somebody who comes to Italy with Aids is not going to put Italy in danger. Somebody who arrives in America with Aids isn't going to put America in danger. We are surrounded by danger."

"If you start putting people in a concentration camp or stamping their passports as HIV positive you might as well put numbers on their arms, and you go right back to Nazi Germany," she said.



Taylor: likely to increase immigration controversy

unit, told an international Aids conference in Florence. Even so, scores of thousands of people in Europe and north America would become infected in the following years unless there was remarkable progress in producing a vaccine or new treatments, Dr Chin said. The peak would be delayed if heterosexual spread of HIV were to quicken owing to more risky sexual behaviour or increasing transmission from infected drug abusers, he said.

However, the course of the epidemic in the West is overshadowed by its rapid movement across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. By 1994, ten million Africans and three million Asians are expected to have the virus.

By the year 2000, up to 750,000 cases of Aids a year would be occurring in Africa, and 250,000 a year in Asia, most in Thailand and India, Dr Chin said.

Half of all those with HIV worldwide would develop Aids within ten years of becoming infected, and 90 per cent would have the fatal disease within 20 years of infection. At present, about one person in 250 of the world's population was carrying the virus, Dr Chin said. In Europe, one man in 200 and one woman in 1,400 may have HIV; in America, the ratio is one man in 75 and one woman in 700, and in Africa, one in 40 men and women.

"The vast majority of people who contracted HIV during the 1980s will die in the 1990s, and Aids will become the major cause of death in young adults in the developing world," Dr Chin said.

According to WHO estimates, up to half a billion heterosexual men and women are at moderate to high risk of exposure to HIV through multiple sexual partners. Ten million homosexual men and up to five million drug users who share injecting equipment are similarly at risk. "The expectation is that HIV will spread more widely through populations where rates of other sexually transmitted diseases are high," Dr Chin said.

In the ten years since the first cases of what is now called Aids were reported, at least eight to ten million adults had become infected, and a million children had been born with HIV, according to WHO estimates. Most of those infants were born in Africa, and the number is predicted to reach ten million by the end of the 1990s.

Projected infant and child deaths from Aids could increase child mortality rates by 50 per cent in the next ten years, wiping out gains in child survival over the past 20 years. Seven out of ten children of infected mothers will not be born with the virus, but will join more than ten million Aids orphans in Africa whose mothers are expected to die from the disease in this decade.



Inside taste: a creation by the celebrated chef Anton Mosimann being tasted by a prison officer and a prisoner at Holloway jail, north London, yesterday. Invited by the prison's education department to an award

ceremony for 35 prisoners who had completed a catering course, Mr Mosimann spent the morning preparing five dishes whose combined cost he estimated at £10-£12 (William Cash writes). "It was much

better than the usual food they have, as I always say it doesn't matter how small a budget you have got," he said. His dishes included steamed halibut with wild mushrooms, raw salmon and turbot in a marinated

sauce, and purée de fruits naturels, all of which the women prisoners ate afterwards. For dinner last night in the canteen, however, the menu was back to normal: beef hotpot, baked beans and rice pudding.

Airports plan to turn flying into a shopping experience

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S leading airports are preparing to cash in on cut-price fares offered by airlines by trying to divert the money saved by passengers into airport shops.

Talks are at an advanced stage for Marks & Spencer to open a store on a site adjoining Heathrow's terminal 3, and BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, made it clear yesterday that it was determined to boost profits through increased attention to retail sales.

Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, said: "Marketing campaigns, combined with increasing competition, particularly on the transatlantic routes, are keeping air fares attractively low. These low fares help to increase passenger volume with no revenue dilution to BAA traffic or

commercial activities. With a more favourable exchange rate than last year and cheaper tickets increasing the disposable income of passengers we would expect that our retail income per passenger would not decline this year."

About 10 per cent of floor space at airport terminals is now given over to retail sales, an amount which has infuriated airlines anxious to improve passenger handling facilities but which, BAA says, is essential if it is to make sufficient profit to allow long-term investment. Now BAA airports are likely to become even more like giant shopping malls. "We intend to create a first-class shopping environment which the passenger will want to use," Sir John said.

The proposed Marks & Spencer shop - which at

50,000 square feet would be as big as the company's stores in a medium-sized town such as Reigate, Surrey - would be aimed at both passengers and the airport's 55,000 employees, as well as visiting aircrew and the local community, who would be able to buy anything from clothes to food.

BAA has been keen to attract new airlines to its new airport terminal at Stansted, where landing fees are 40 per cent lower than at Heathrow. The policy received a significant boost yesterday when United Airlines asked the US government to approve an application to allow it to fly daily between Chicago and Stansted from October 1.

Leading article, page 15
BAA results, page 21
Tempus, page 23

Tougher control on smoking is urged

By TIM MILES

PUBLIC health doctors have called for stringent anti-smoking measures to cut deaths from heart disease and lung cancer. They want a ban by the year 2000 on tobacco advertising likely to be seen by people under 18, and a ban on smoking in public places by the end of next year.

In its first report on public health in Britain, the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians also urges health insurers to offer lower rates to non-smokers. Its recommendations run ahead of government policy and, on tobacco advertising, directly counter to it. The government favours voluntary controls on advertisers.

The faculty's report, *UK Levels of Health*, comes in the wake of the government's

green paper on public health, *The Health of the Nation*, published earlier this month. While setting broadly similar targets, such as reductions in heart disease and strokes, the faculty's report is more ambitious over reducing smoking. Its authors want the number of smokers reduced to 14 per cent of the adult population by 2000, compared with the government's proposed 22 per cent target.

The report also says that by the year 2000, GPs should be monitoring the level of alcohol consumption for 95 per cent of people aged over 18. Birth control is also considered an important contributor to health, and the report recommends that by 1995 a "genuinely free source of condoms" should be available in each health authority.

British children hooked on junk food

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH parents are eating healthy food, but have yet to wean their children off junk.

One in four children will not eat fresh produce, more than a third do not eat wholemeal bread and more than half regularly snack on crisps, biscuits and chocolate, a survey published in *She* magazine reveals.

Their parents, however, appear to live in a different world, nourishing themselves with fresh fruit, vegetables, wholemeal bread, high-fibre cereal, white fish and lean meat, and sipping glasses of semi-skimmed milk. That, at least, is what they claimed in responding to a questionnaire which appeared in the January issue of the magazine. A total of 1,000 completed questionnaires were analysed.

She concludes that Britain's families - more accurately, those of its readers who responded - are fit and well, with 90 per cent of men and children and 86 per cent of women enjoying good health. The fried breakfast has been a victim of the health food trend, with only 2 per cent of *She* families admitting to consuming it. Seventy per cent said they exercised regularly two or three times a week.

Hal McFie, head of consumer sciences at the Institute of Food Research at Reading, said that the *She* responses were typical of the "socially responsible diet" followed by women in social classes one and two. "It is well-known that people will allow social desirability to affect their responses to questionnaires," he said.

Studies had shown that there was not one British diet, but several, Dr McFie said. As well as the diet reported by *She* readers, there were also traditional diets, with lots of pies, chips and beer (for men) or cakes and puddings (for women). "There is no evidence that people follow any one of these all the time," he said. "We remember having vegetables with Sunday lunch but we forget the pizzas we've been eating all week."

The survey showed that Northern families were fit and well with no signs that they had less healthy eating habits than families in the south.

UK's high postal standards set as a target for Europe

By RAY CLANCY

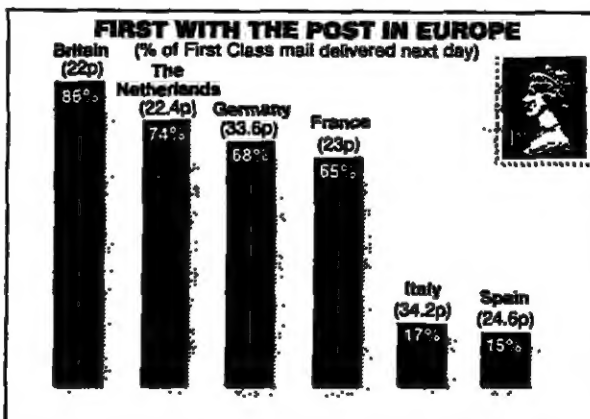
STANDARDS of postal services in the rest of Europe fall far short of those in Britain, where 86 per cent of first-class letters arrive the day after posting, according to a survey published yesterday.

A European Commission green paper on postal services, to be published next month, is expected to tell such countries as Spain and Italy to bring their standards up to British levels. In Spain, 15 per cent of letters arrive the next day, in Italy 17 per cent, while stamps in those countries are much dearer than in Britain. The green paper will set out universal standards on weight, price,

speed of delivery and service to customers.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, announcing the results of the independent survey of European postal services, said that he intended to ensure that Britain stayed top of the league after the introduction of the single market led to increased competition.

The first effect of postal liberalisation is expected to be a harmonizing of standards. Sir Bryan said that cross-border deliveries would improve as countries made improvements, but it could take Spain and Italy "considerable time to close



the gap". Post offices in those two countries would have to move away from their governments and become separate commercial enterprises, as in Britain, France and Germany.

Although improved standards would mean that holidaymakers no longer arrived home before their postcards, Sir Bryan said he did not envisage a system where the Royal Mail would collect or deliver in other countries. Nor were there plans for a European stamp. "We have no intention of losing our national identity as far as stamps are concerned. There is no question of losing the Queen's head."

The survey found that an average of 86 per cent of first-class internal mail posted in Britain reached its destination the next day, compared with 74 per cent in The Netherlands, 68 per cent in Germany, 65 per cent in France, 17 per cent in Italy and 15

per cent in Spain. In Britain, 93 per cent of letters with a local destination arrived the next day and 70 per cent of long-distance mail was on target.



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Labour backs council on job cuts

Liverpool has no choice, Blunkett says

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership yesterday backed moves by Liverpool city council to try to balance its books by pushing ahead with job cuts and allowing a French company to take over its troubled refuse collection services.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, praised Labour councillors at Liverpool for "looking reality in the eye" as Militant attempted to exploit the redundancies and the work-to-rule by dustmen as part of the Walton by-election campaign.

Mr Blunkett, who held private meetings last week with Liverpool leaders at which the city's finances were discussed, said that Harry Rimmer, the council leader, and his colleagues were doing their utmost to sort out years of incompetence and to comply with legislation on contracting out council work.

Mr Blunkett will report to Labour's national executive next week on his talks. Full backing is being given to the council leadership during the by-election, with at least two visits to the constituency expected from Neil Kinnock.

Mr Blunkett said the council had no choice over the private tender for refuse collection. "We have a position where the private tender is literally millions of pounds lower. Even in the world outside Liverpool, people

have had to face that situation. Unions have had to negotiate in every city and town across Britain to reach deals with their local authorities. Very often they have kept the private sector at bay.

"That has not been the case in Liverpool. The reality is very simple. The legislation will apply whether the council agrees it this week or not."

● The crisis in Liverpool was a grim example of what Britain would become under a Labour government, Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said yesterday (Ronald Faux writes). Speaking in support of Berkeley Greenwood, the Tory candidate, Mr Patten said the city's crisis was the Labour party's crisis, caused by incompetence and in-fighting.



Blunkett: the council was right over private tender

Militant whose soft words belie her tendencies

Jamie Dettmer and Ronald Faux profile Lesley Mahmood, the Liverpool leftwinger determined to capture Eric Heffer's old seat at Walton for the Broad Left

LESLEY Mahmood seems far removed from the menace and violent intimidation associated with Militant's reign in Liverpool. Only her accent and Trotskyite politics would suggest that she could be a character from Alan Bleasdale's drama series *GBH*.

Slightly built with a shock of dark hair, Mrs Mahmood can be soft-spoken, and when she talks about her political convictions she does not speak with the worn rhetoric of many of her Trotskyite colleagues.

There is, though, a hard edge to Mrs Mahmood, according to Liverpool Tories and Liberal Democrats. A Tory councillor compares her voice to the sound of a chainsaw — "particularly when it becomes fully charged with indignation against capitalism, the ruling class and the behaviour of banks."

She is prepared to be presented as a monster by her political opponents. Her by-election team is running a "joke corner" competition to spot the worst insult aimed at her during the campaign.

"I'm labelled by some sections of the press as a sort of robotic fanatic, humourless and a militant lunatic," she says. "I don't recognise the description. People in the party work hard but they play hard as well. We enjoy ourselves."

But conversation with her

produces little to suggest that much interests her outside working for what she calls "true socialism". Every Sunday she trots round for family lunch to her parents, who live a few streets away from her £35,000 terraced house. She regularly works out in a gymnasium that offers a discount for trade union members. There is an occasional outing to the cinema. She likes cream cakes.

At 39, Mrs Mahmood has been summoned forth from the ranks of Militant to attempt what one of the legendary figures of the tendency, Ted Grant, failed to do in 1954 — capture the Liverpool Walton constituency for the Trotskyites. Thirty-seven years ago, Mr Grant was selected by the local Labour party to fight the seat, only to be frustrated by the party's national executive which imposed a candidate of its own. Mrs Mahmood, the Militant-dominated Broad Left candidate, has the chance to punish Labour, her real enemy in the by-election for Eric Heffer's old seat, for the affront.

Born in the Liverpool suburb of Fazakerley in 1952, Mrs Mahmood has never left her native city. Her father was a draughtsman, her mother, a Vernon's girl at the offices near by of the football pools company. Neither parent was particularly political although they regu-



Mahmood: "Some councillors simply turn up, say nothing and do very little. That is not my style"

larly voted Labour.

Her upbringing was little different from that of other working-class children in the narrow terraced streets of Fazakerley. She attended Rice Lane junior school and Queen Mary's high school before taking a degree in

English and history at Liverpool university. She added a teaching qualification.

"I was 15 when I went along with my sister to join the Labour party. We were interested even then in changing things."

She met her first husband, Phil Holt, a well-known Merseyside trade union activist, at a Young Socialists meeting when she was 18. Together they joined Militant. She makes light of her recruitment, merely saying that she was impressed by Militant's literature. Their son Carl was born while she was at university. In fact, like all prospective

members she would have gone through a series of tests before being inducted into the tendency. The tests would have included intensive discussions in the pub after Labour party meetings, encouragement to second ward and constituency motions bearing the stamp of the tendency's politics, and selling copies of *Militant* newspaper. Like other new recruits, Mrs Mahmood would have become a keen student of Militant's key texts — Trotsky's *Transitional Programme*, Ted Grant's *Lenin and Trotsky: What They Really Stood For*, and the pamphlet *Enrism*, on the importance of infiltrating parties such as Labour.

The Militant life has been detailed by various defectors over the years. One defector from Militant described his early years in the tendency as a round of "unending tedium". "A lot of it boiled down to selling papers. One day I suddenly realised that after a year my social circle had totally drifted. I had only political friends left, simply because of the lack of time. There'd be the Militant branch meeting on Monday evening, the Young Socialists meeting another evening, 'contact' work on Friday night, selling papers on Sunday afternoon." Another former member spoke of it all as "a secret spy-like world; there was tremendous excitement and tremendous attraction at first".

Unlike some, Mrs Mahmood maintained her loyalty and excitement. But while her Militant commitment grew her marriage failed. It lasted for five years and she brought up Carl, now aged 19, as a single parent. Mr Holt went on to become a significant power in Merseyside trade unionism, masterminding in 1983 a Militant-influenced Broad Left takeover of what later became the National Communications Union. Four years later, he led an attempt to prolong an NCU strike against a two-year pay deal negotiated with British Tele-

com by the former right-wing Labour MP John Giddens, the union's general secretary. Mr Holt is still a full-time NCU official in Merseyside.

Mrs Mahmood began working at a school on the Norris Green housing estate. She taught there for five years until, for personal reasons she declines to discuss, she left teaching. Thereafter, she drifted in and out of dead-end jobs, including selling ice cream, cleaning, and working as a cinema usherette. Throughout the remained fully active in Militant and the Labour party.

Four years ago, she was elected to Liverpool city council representing Netherley in Walton. Derek Hanton's old ward. She lives on state benefits and £10 a week councillor's allowance. Her husband, Liaquat, born in Pakistan, is an unemployed silver service waiter.

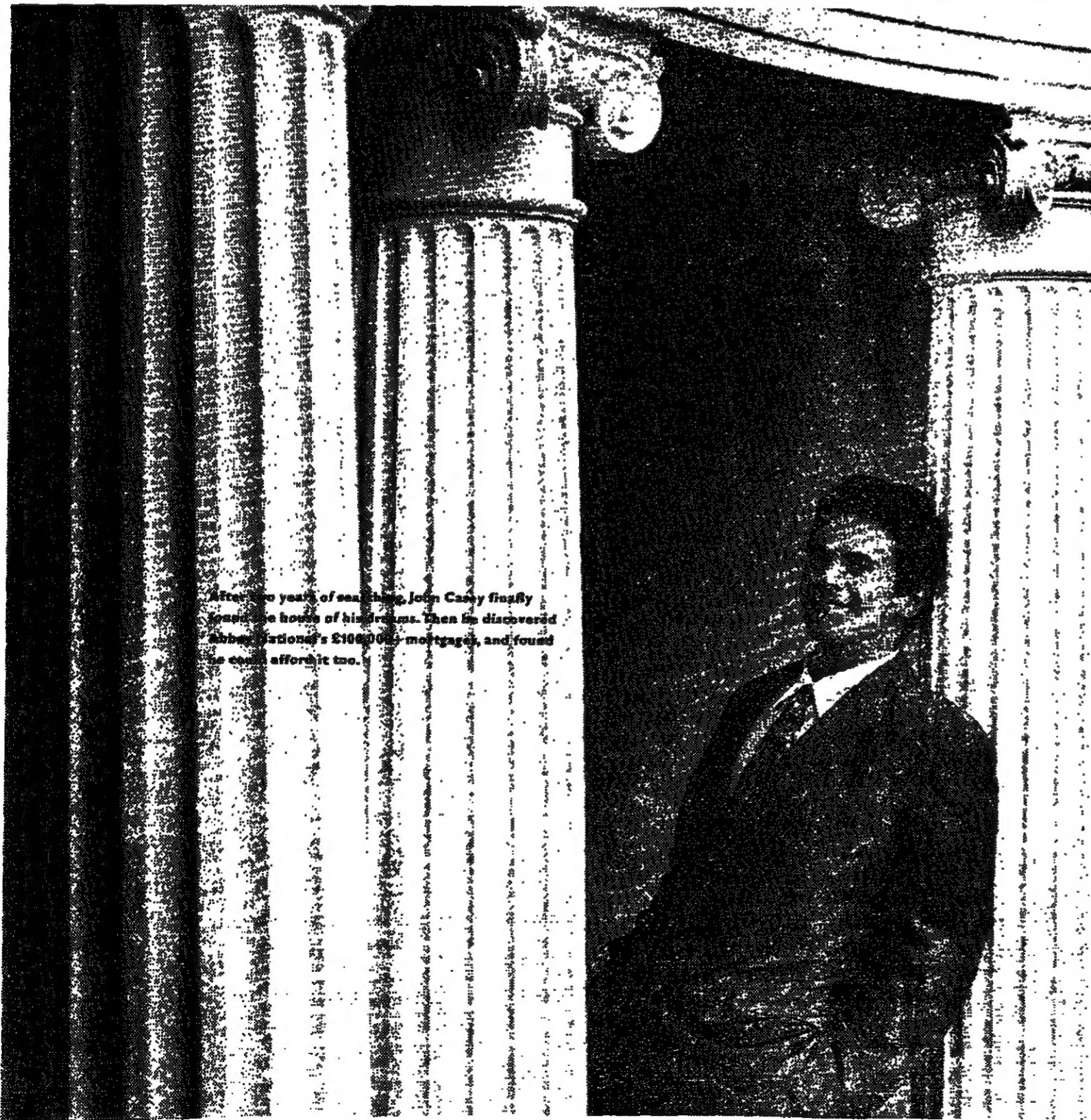
"Some councillors simply turn up, say nothing and do very little. That is not my style," she says. Her campaigning against the poll tax brought her into direct conflict with the Labour party, and when for the first time in her political career she refused the party whip she was expelled along with 14 other leftwingers.

"Militant has always been in the Labour party: the founder members came from Liverpool and from the Walton constituency. It was Militant and the rest of the left who went out and knocked on doors, folded the leaflets, recruited people to the party."

Militant was not, she insisted, an enemy within the Labour party. The real enemy to Labour was the soft approach to socialism the present leadership was taking. The SDP Mark 2 as Eric Heffer put it.

She defends the strident aggressive style adopted by the Broad Left in council debates, which many regard as repugnant. Mrs Mahmood quotes the motto which was a favourite with Eric Heffer: "Better to break the law than break the poor."

I was so impressed I bought the house



After two years of searching, John Casey finally found the house of his dreams. Then he discovered Abbey National's £100,000 mortgage, and found he could afford it too.

High-tech zone gets also-ran warning on skills

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

ONE of the country's most prosperous areas could become an also-ran in Europe if immediate steps are not taken to train skilled craftsmen, a businessman said yesterday after research showed the area would be short of 40,000 workers by 1994.

Gregory Hyland, chief executive of the Thames Valley Training and Enterprise Council (Tec), said that the region acted as a barometer for the rest of the country with its high number of companies involved in modern technology and heavy emphasis on small businesses, with more than 27,000 firms employing fewer than 25 people. High-technology companies had a fast staff turnover, which required continued retraining, yet only one in four of the region's companies had formal training schemes.

"We are the powerhouse for Britain's newer technologies but unless parents, schools, colleges, and businesses combine to give our people the skills they need we risk being the also-rans of Western Europe," he said. The Thames Valley Tec, with an income of £23 million for 1991-2, was one of the first ten to be formed in May 1990. Mr Hyland said that the 81 Tec across the country working in partnership with business,

schools and colleges would be the driving force behind the vocational training of young people, essential if Britain was to withstand increased competition from Europe in the single market of 1992.

The Thames Valley training scheme is to be expanded to cover 40 per cent of the young people in the region by 1992 and all of them by 1994. In its first year, the number of young employees who received training offering a vocational qualification rose by 25 per cent.

Both the government and the Labour party are committed to providing training for all but Labour plans a compulsory scheme of training for all those aged 16.

"There are some attractions in a statutory system but I don't think we have given the alternatives a fair crack of the whip yet," Mr Hyland said. In the Thames Valley, 17 per cent of young people qualified with at least two A levels or a vocational equivalent, against 35 per cent in France and 30 per cent in Germany.

"Compared with many of our overseas competitors, the region is significantly under-skilled. Our top priority must be to make training an essential part of every job and to ensure that all school leavers are trained for employment."

| JOBS: THE BOOM AND DECLINE | |
|---|------|
| Forecast change in employment opportunities by 1994 (percentage change) | |
| Agriculture | -4.0 |
| Energy & water | -1.7 |
| Extraction based industry | -5.0 |
| Engineering | -3.0 |
| Other manufacturing | -8.0 |
| Construction | 1.7 |
| Distribution, hotel & catering | 4.0 |
| Transport | 2.3 |
| Banking & business services | 17.0 |
| Other services | 5.0 |

Source: Thames Valley Enterprise

Solicitor questioned

A SOLICITOR working for a firm in Doncaster has been questioned by South Yorkshire police about an allegation of threats to Judge James Pickles.

The controversial judge, who is due to retire next week, was told by South Yorkshire police that they were investigating information given to them by a man being

questioned about other matters. The solicitor was not at his office yesterday and a spokesman for his firm said he was "off sick". South Yorkshire police said: "A man from Sheffield was arrested by Doncaster police and later released on bail following a complaint of threats to a member of the judiciary."

£45,000 award for killer

A man who strangled his mother after being turned away from hospital because there was no psychiatrist available to see him won £45,000 out-of-court damages from Trafford health authority, Greater Manchester, yesterday.

Kevin Patterson, convicted of manslaughter in 1984, sued the authority for contributing to his mother's death. Patterson, of Partington, Trafford, was taken to Park hospital, Manchester, hours before killing his mother. He was sent to a mental home from which he has been released.

No vacancies

Hundreds of nesting boxes provided by the National Trust in woods near Windermere, Cumbria, after last year's storms destroyed thousands of trees, have proved so popular that birds are fighting over them, the trust said.

Comedian guilty

Kenny Lynch, the comedian, admitted driving with excess alcohol on the M4 after celebrating Tottenham's FA Cup win. Magistrates at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, adjourned the case until July 15.

Actor's appeal

The actor Charlton Heston, a former B-52 tail gunner, is to head a £10 million appeal for the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

Stealing a kiss

A raider kissed a female shop assistant and a waitress goodbye before escaping with a total of £450 from robberies at a post office and a restaurant in Wolverhampton.

Fork attack

Police are checking hospitals for a robber stabbed in the stomach with a pitchfork by a man aged 69 whose bungalow he tried to break into at Laindon, Essex.

Army dismissal

Kevin Brown, aged 23, an army corporal was dismissed the service by a court martial at Aldershot for stealing a £2,500 fencing cup.

£12m mansion

Foleston Park, a grade II Georgian mansion five miles from Windsor castle, is for sale at £12 million.

'Bomb' raider

A bank raider who claimed to have a bomb strapped to his waist was disarmed by two policemen in Coventry. The bomb was found to be a fake.



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By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

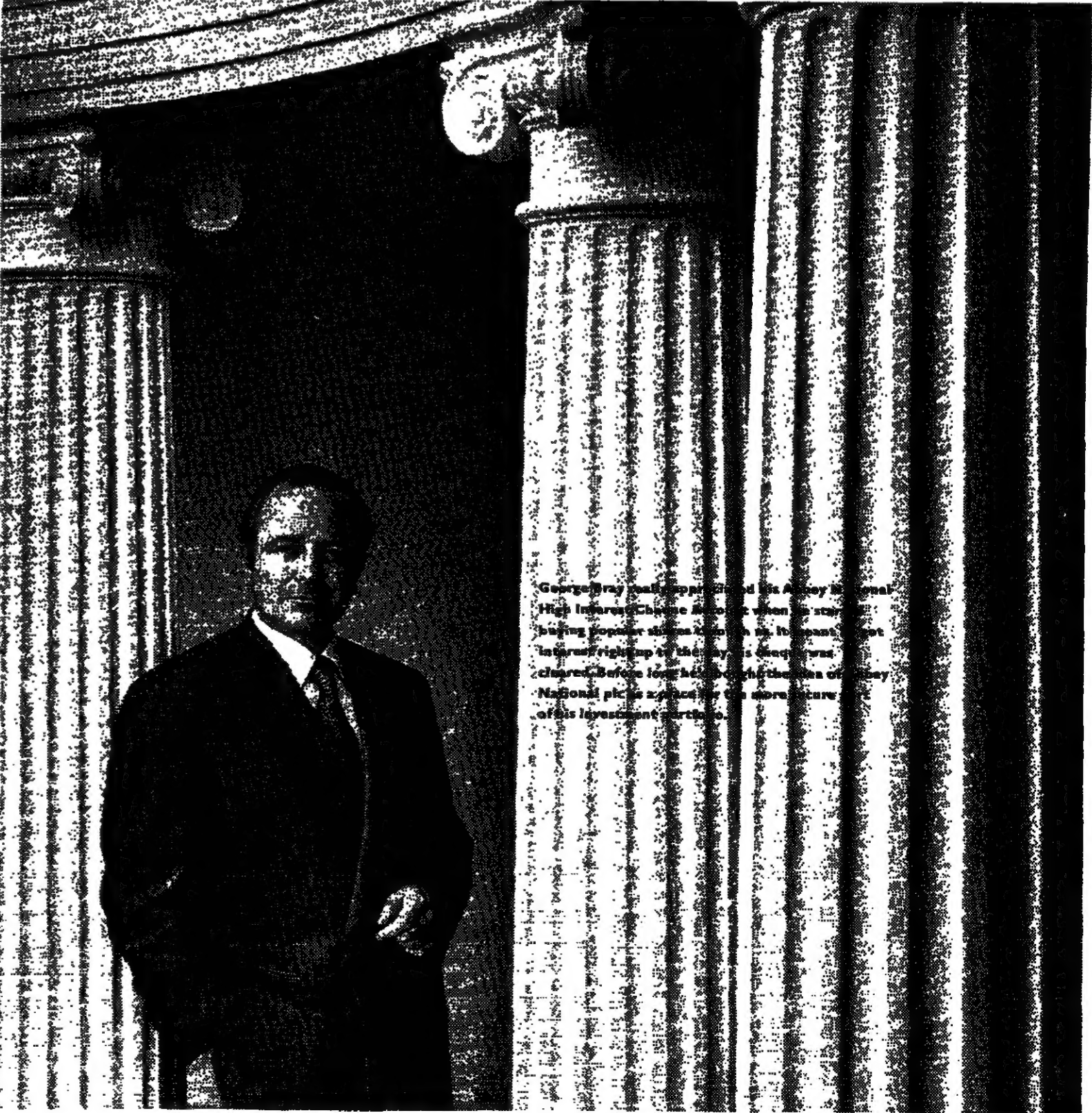
BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

By ROBERT MORGAN

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

The Iraqi people in northern Iraq and that meant integrating the people back into their own communities. That was the representative of the Iraqi people had combined to form a central development committee. She said: "We always agreed that allied troops were going to be a temporary deployment".

I was so *impressed*
I bought the company



George Gray, head of the United States Agency for International Development, said that when he started buying foreign currencies in 1960, he was "not interested in the way it was done, but in the demand for long-term capital for the development of the Third World."


**ABBEY
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The habit of a lifetime

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

Darling: "many party members favour PR"

The draft report is described as the fullest examination of electoral reform undertaken by a British political party. Alastair Darling, Labour's constitutional spokesman, said: "It will be an educative process. Many party members say they favour PR but are unable to spell out the sort of system they had in mind".

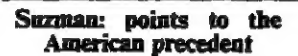
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FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

**FROM GAVIN BELL
IN CAPE TOWN**

Helen Suzman, the veteran anti-apartheid campaigner, says: "Apartheid has gone in statutory terms, but what remains is its legacy of racial discrimination. Blacks have a

No explanation was given in the magistrate's court here yesterday as the Rev Alan Storey, aged 22, a probationary Methodist minister, and Wally Rontsch, aged 40, a businessman, were freed.



long way to go before we can

There is that unrealistic expectations have been raised, and they are not going to be met overnight. But I am delighted I have lived long enough to see the end of apartheid laws."

Cause for concern: President Aquino of the Philippines visiting some of the thousands of refugees evacuated from towns affected by the Mount Pinatubo eruptions. The refugees are being temporarily accommodated at a sports stadium in Manila

FROM VAUDINE ENGLAND IN MANILA

About 5,000 Americans were moved out of the country from the American naval base at Subic Bay. They are with an

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

The front runner is P.V. Narasimha Rao, who succeeded Rajiv Gandhi as party president. A sickly man who only recently had another heart operation, he was chosen as president as a stop-gap, since he is one of the few top Congress men who is acceptable to all factions and, equally important, to most regions of the country. Rao has two years to wait the elections and would have to run for the Lok Sabha (lower house) in a by-election within six months if he became prime minister. He has no political base of his own, which means he poses no threat to any particular group of vested

AS MARGARET Thatcher

But observers said that to become secretary-general, Mrs Thatcher would need to overcome an unwritten rule that it cannot go to anyone from the five security council powers, which include Britain.

Peking — China is to send a delegation to America and Canada to study human rights. The visit, believed to be the first of its kind, is an intriguing change after China's criticism of Western concepts of human rights. It is believed the impetus for the mission came from high in the Communist party leadership.

Washington — President Bush said that he had received a "very positive" letter on arms control issues from President Gorbachev and that he was still leaving time for a possible summit meeting this summer. He said the letter was an important response, on the obstacles to a treaty to reduce strategic nuclear weapons.

Five soldiers were killed and one was wounded when a landmine planted by Tamil separatist guerrillas exploded under their vehicle in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, military sources said. An official enquiry was due to report on allegations that the army has killed up to 150 Tamil villagers. (Reuters)

Mecca — Iranian pilgrims will today hold a mass meeting in Mecca as a result of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March. Ties were broken four years ago when more than 400 people were killed in riots at Islam's holiest shrine. (Reuters)

HANOI NOTEBOOK by James Pringle

A little red book
that's nice.



GED

why is the bard's future so assured in communist Vietnam? The reason is the late president, Ho Chi Minh, who during part of the first world war lived in London, working as a pastry chef and vegetable cook at the Carlton hotel, and developed an admiration for the dramatist.

Ho, like other communist leaders from Stalin to Mao, remains a revered figure in Vietnam, even to those who despise marxism

into Vietnamese. The founding father of communism in Vietnam, who is regarded by most ordinary people here as having been a nationalist first and communist second, then recited the play to the troops

Not only Shakespeare was honoured by Ho. During his time in Britain he also discovered Scottish literature in the person of Sir Walter

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 Club, London, Forte Coast, Regent's Park,
 London, Larkfield Priory Hotel, Malvern, The
 Castle and Ball, Marbury Hotel, The Palace, March
 Beckwith, The Metropole, Palsbury,
 The Harwood Inn, Palsbury, The Adair Palace,
 Palsbury, Forte Coast, Portsmouth, The White
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THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 18 1991

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RENAULT ESPACE

Crunch on EC nearer than Britain's new managers think



Delors: his federal aims are out in the open now

JOHN Major is trying to avoid the kind of isolation within the EC for which Margaret Thatcher became notorious. But as yesterday's Luxembourg row between Douglas Hurd and Jacques Delors demonstrated, even under new management Britain is still faced with painful choices between sovereignty and the EC goal — now out in the open — of European federalism. M Delors' reference to Mr Major's "momentary" domestic problems must have struck home.

The government's position on Europe is designed to avoid undesirable events rather than to achieve a clearly defined objective. Mr Major wants to avoid Mrs Thatcher's fate at the hands of the community: by the end of her leadership, her position inside the community had undoubtedly contributed to her downfall at Westminster. But he wants simultaneously to meet his

Developments in Luxembourg yesterday indicate that European political union is a genuine EC goal. In this commentary, George Brock analyses the implications

European obligations. He clearly sees that in monetary affairs Britain has been caught in a trap for the past two years. If the government opts out of a single currency treaty, others will go ahead, leaving the British business community anxious and uncertain. "Crunch points are some way off," Mr Major likes to say, but the crunch could come sooner than he thinks.

So far the government seems to have just hoped, like Mr Major, that something would turn up before the final reckoning in December. Very fortunately — and it is no more than luck — Helmut Kohl, the German Chan-

cellor, turned up at Chequers a week ago to reassure Mr Major that he would stop other EC governments trying to use the Luxembourg summit next week to bully Britain. That should put real monetary negotiations off until the autumn and the December summit in Maastricht. At Maastricht the government may, if it is lucky, find itself with an open-ended economic and monetary union treaty which it can sign and then sell to the House of Commons. That optimistic forecast depends on continuing German caution on EMU, and on government control over Tory anti-EC rebel backbenchers.

The argument over a single currency has, on the surface, pushed the negotiations on "political union" to one side. But at the pre-summit Luxembourg meeting yesterday, Mr Major's Micawberism came unstuck. Britain's partners, it turns out, are genuine about their goal of a federal Europe. The draft treaty on political union contains several pitfalls for any Conservative government.

It is just about possible to close one's eyes and imagine Mr Major's surviving a small revolt by some of his supporters over an EMU treaty. It is absolutely impossible to envisage him doing that and asking the same group of loyal supporters to sanction yet further extensions of European federalism.

The political union talks exist because Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand said they should. In pursuit of a united

states of Europe, the German chancellor wants real power for the European parliament. The community most certainly lacks democratic accountability and the logic of Herr Kohl's proposal is undeniable. His proposal is also unworkable, and is otherwise only fully supported by the Italians. President Mitterrand wants Europe to play a heavy-weight role in the new world order. He has two unspoken conditions: France must play a leading role in the management of this new power and the Americans ought to stay on the sidelines, unless the new European superpower asks for their help. Both these ideas have reached the draft political treaty in diluted form.

In the case of economic and monetary union, there is nothing Britain can do to stop the other Eleven going ahead on their own if they wish. But when it comes to

the treaty on political union, a British veto really is a veto. Eleven countries could bypass a reluctant Britain en route to developing a single currency, but not on new constitutional structures intended to create, in effect, a United States of Europe.

Chancellor Kohl, who has not made himself popular in Brussels by pleading for his friend Mr Major to be given more time, will feel let down if Britain invokes its veto powers. Although he seems helpful to Britain on the timing of economic and monetary union, Herr Kohl insists that the monetary and political treaties should be conducted in parallel.

Whatever Mr Major does between now and the end of the year he must finally come to terms with the fact that he is going to offend at least some of the people some of the time.

European clash, page 1

Gorbachev pressed to uphold rule of centre

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, yesterday threw down the gauntlet to President Gorbachev, demanding additional powers to enable his government to tackle the country's continuing problems — or risk total economic collapse.

Complaining that central directives were largely unnoted, he told parliament: "The government must be able to respond immediately to the situation... and have the power to do so." Mr Pavlov was presenting the amended version of his government's "anti-crisis programme" to a parliament concerned that the latest, as yet unpublished, version of the new union treaty and the election of Boris Yeltsin as Russian president would substantially reduce the power of the central parliament.

The reason for their concern was neatly illustrated twice during the day. First, it transpired that even as Mr Pavlov was introducing his programme to an equally disgruntled parliament,

President Gorbachev was receiving the radical economist, Grigori Yavlinsky, to hear about his comprehensive East-West co-operation programme. The Yavlinsky programme, drafted jointly with a team at Harvard University and dubbed the "grand bargain" for its ambitious scale, is seen as a rival to the Soviet government programme.

Mr Gorbachev thus gave the impression that he thought more of Mr Yavlinsky, a freelance economist of reformist persuasion, than of the Soviet parliament. During the parliamentary debate, the chairman of the budget commission, Viktor Kucherenko, said outright that the very existence of the Yavlinsky programme had undermined confidence in the government plan.

After the lunchbreak, deputies felt snubbed again when the chairman, Anatoli Lukyanov, and one of his deputies absented themselves to attend the latest meeting of the committee completing the new union treaty. All recent meetings of the committee have been held at Novo-Ogaryovo outside Moscow, which has been scornfully christened "the Kremlin in the country". After half an hour of angry exchanges, parliament voted to suspend all discussion of the "anti-crisis programme" until they knew the outcome of the talks at Novo-Ogaryovo.

Statements by Mr Pavlov and parliamentary deputies yesterday suggested that a serious constitutional split had developed between the central government and parliament, on the one hand, and President Gorbachev and leaders of the republics on the other. Increasingly, there appear to be two centres of power battling for primacy: the old constitutional organs and Novo-Ogaryovo.

Yesterday both Mr Pavlov and his deputy, Vladimir Shcherbakov, indicated that they were dissatisfied with the support their government was being given by President Gorbachev. There were, Mr Shcherbakov told reporters, "specific difficulties... The president must be a politician and take political decisions... We must take economic decisions, and sometimes the political decisions have serious economic implications."

Mr Pavlov's request for extra powers — which he admitted he had not discussed with Mr Gorbachev in advance — include the right to initiate legislation and issue decrees.

● US trip: Boris Yeltsin starts a visit to the United States today that could help bring his international image more in line with his surging authority at home (Bruce Clark writes).

In contrast with previous foreign trips, when he aroused suspicion as an irresponsible rocker of the Gorbachev boat, the newly elected Russian president is travelling this time with the blessing and co-operation of the central Soviet authorities.



Kremlin conclave: Valentin Pavlov, right, discussing with his deputy, Vladimir Shcherbakov, centre, and another colleague his demands for additional powers to head off a total collapse of the Soviet economy after addressing the parliament in Moscow yesterday

Jittery East bloc watches Soviet troops pull out

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

MOSCOW is at last giving in to the demands of graffiti writers throughout Central Europe: for years no wall or underground tunnel has been free of the sprayed slogans "Russians go home" or "tanks to the scrapyard". Yesterday the last Soviet soldiers left Hungary and next week the troops will be out of Czechoslovakia. Slowly, but surely, they are also withdrawing from Poland.

The departure from Hungary is a momentous occasion for the country's politicians. Lajos Fur, the defence minister, said, after what he called an emotional farewell meeting with General Viktor Shilov, the Soviet commander: "A country becomes free not only when it is politically free but when it is militarily independent. We're beginning a new era, and you can't begin one with a hat. We said goodbye with flowers and I invited him back to Hungary as a tourist."

But in its wake the Soviet Army is leaving uninhabitable barracks, rivers poisoned by diesel fuel, mysterious bunkers that once probably housed nuclear warheads, and black marketeers (what will happen to the caviar prices?). It is also leaving a security vacuum that worries the leaders of Central and Eastern Europe. NATO has made it plain that it will not offer membership to the new democracies. Intellectually, the East European leaders grasp the point: NATO membership would immediately breed a sense of encirclement in the Soviet Union and would re-

mind the Soviet army that it has lost its buffer zone. Emotionally, though, the East Europeans feel let down by the West, excluded from the club, and not a little nervous about how a disintegrating Soviet Union will affect their independence. The Helsinki process — the framework provided by the Conference on Security and Co-operation — is a useful security forum. But how would it work if the Soviet Union used force to resolve a territorial dispute?

The Soviet Union would like to "Finlandise" Eastern Europe through a network of mutual non-aggression treaties. So far only Romania has signed up and its friendship agreement, signed in March, states that "the two countries pledge not to tolerate the use of their territories by a third state to commit an act of aggression against the other, and not to support such a state" which seems to rule out membership of NATO. Similar demands are being made of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, which are reluctant to play along. But the withdrawal of Soviet troops has left these countries feeling curiously insecure.

For the time being though, there is the distraction of horse-trading. Prague, Budapest and Warsaw claim that the Soviet army laid waste to huge tracts of land. The Soviet army argues that much pollution, in Czechoslovakia, for instance, is actually caused by factories, and claims that clean-up estimates are grossly exaggerated.



Final farewell: Troops from a Soviet artillery regiment completing the withdrawal from Hungary this week



Cresson: Communists will help her survive

Confident Cresson welcomes battle

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

BARELY a month after becoming France's prime minister, Edith Cresson last night was facing what seems likely to be the first of a good many opposition motions to censure her government.

With the support of the Communists assured, she was in no danger of defeat but, as she understands, it is a signal that the mainstream conservatives intend to make life as difficult as possible for the minority Socialist administration. After her disappointing parliamentary debut, when even party loyalists found her maiden speech as prime minister too long and lacking in verve, Mme Cresson was keen to demonstrate that she has what it takes to handle a difficult inheritance.

Like her predecessor, Michel Rocard, she will almost certainly have to make extensive use of article 49.3 of the constitution, effectively challenging the opposition to push through important legislation. Unlike M Rocard, Mme Cresson seems to thrive on confrontation and will be counting on backing from the Communists to carry her through. They may be less than enthusiastic about her qualities and programmes but allowing the Socialists to be defeated would produce a potentially disastrous general election.

With yet another "treaty of unity" under their belt, the leaders of the fragmented right are said to be looking forward to confronting Mme Cresson, in the apparent expectation that her belligerent style will eventually lose votes.

Poor Edith wins no hearts or minds in sex war

Philip Jacobson refuses to get hot under the collar, and instead comes up with sober facts to dispute the French prime minister's fantasies on the merits of French men over British

God only knows how Edith Cresson arrived at the provocative conclusion in an *Observer* newspaper interview this weekend that one in four men in Britain is homosexual. But in laying down the gauntlet that French men are more interested in women than British men, the French prime minister leaves herself at the mercy of statistics which suggest that the French male is not all he is cracked up to be.

For a start, opinion polls here have found that no less than 70 per cent of those rampant French males would not consider themselves cuckolded until their wife has betrayed them at least five times. And what about the 84 per cent who assured pollsters that a faithful wife is greatly to be preferred to a seductive one or the 95 per cent of couples who agreed that happiness between the sheets is a partner who does not take an unfair share of the bed?

Hardly the raging currents of passion which Mme Cresson would have us believe throbb through the veins of the French, as opposed to the British, man in the street. Then there is the discovery that a significantly greater number of French men believe their sex lives leave nothing to be desired than is the case with French women. The point is that where *l'amour* is concerned, the French are no more likely to tell the truth to a stranger with a clipboard than the British. Mme Cresson's sharp-tongued remarks may be accepted or discarded to taste.

As for the extent to which homosexuality enters the argument, it is valid to point out, though not to derive any pleasure from, the fact that France has one of the highest rates of Aids in Europe: about six in every 100,000 people compared with some 1.6 per 100,000 in Britain. Estimates of the number of active homosexuals in France range from 17

per cent (study by the University of Grenoble) to a startling 30 per cent in still unpublished research by the respected Institut d'Etudes Politiques.

In France, as elsewhere, infection through homosexual contact has been a major factor in the spread of Aids, but the indications are that gay men here, like their counterparts in most Western countries, are increasingly practising safer sex with fewer partners. The government finances advertising campaigns encouraging the use of condoms, for heterosexual as well as gay couples; perhaps Mme Cresson is aware of the poll that found over half of French men still consider contraception the woman's responsibility.

As an attractive woman, Mme Cresson is entitled to feel aggrieved if, as she maintains, she did not turn a head among men in the streets of London. But there are plenty of equally attractive French women who fiercely resent some of the treatment they receive in public from men here. Drawing the line between frank admiration and unwelcome attentions is a subject to which Mme Cresson might care to return to one day.

Yesterday's French press appears to have ignored the story: all that is, except for *Le Monde*, whose commentator on the trials of modern life, Claude Sarraute, turned her baleful eye on the matter in a column headlined "Edith and the blokes". You have to feel sorry for poor Edith, she seemed to say, not so much as a wolf-whistle in London. Reaction in Germany, whose males Mme Cresson judged and found wanting in identical measure, was more outspoken, with the popular daily newspaper, *Bild*, stating: "In politics we know Edith Cresson is a bulldozer, but why is she trying to flatten out German men?"

Success in Sicily for new party

Rome — Sicily's dominant Christian Democrat party and a new party preaching rejection of the mafia both did well in local elections in Sicily yesterday.

Italian party leaders took part in the campaign, treating it as a rehearsal for a general election which must be called before the summer of 1992. Apart from the rout of the communists and neo-fascists, the main losers appeared to be the Socialist party, led by Bettino Craxi.

The Communist vote went to La Rete (the network), a new anti-Mafia party backed by the Roman Catholic hierarchy. Leoluca Orlando, a former Christian Democratic mayor of Palermo, led La Rete to win nearly eight per cent of the vote. (Reuters)

Killer executed

Huntsville, Texas — Jerry Joe Bird, aged 54, who had been on death row for 17 years, was put to death by lethal injection for the murder in 1974 of an antique gun collector during a burglary in which the man was shot and his house set on fire. Bird mouthed "Hi" to his mother from the death chamber, declined to give a final statement, then said: "That's all. Go ahead. Start things rolling." He was pronounced dead about 12 minutes after the lethal drugs began to flow. (AP)

Singapore limit

Singapore — Singapore is to allow 110 copies of the Hong Kong-based weekly *Far Eastern Economic Review*, which it restricted to 500 copies until tough press laws more than three years ago, to be circulated free of charge in airport lounges. It must stay within the limit of 500 copies. (Reuters)

Tunnels blocked

Imbabura — Grepeace protesters blocked the Gotthard and the Brenner Pass road tunnels through the Alps to protest against EC demands for an increase in heavy-lorry traffic through Switzerland and Austria. Some protesters were hurt in scuffles with motorists. Traffic was re-routed. (Reuters)

Jobs protest

Bucharest — Several thousand industrial workers demonstrated in Bucharest against unemployment and demanded increased pay. Thousands of miners, who came to crush anti-government protests a year ago, are expected at demonstrations today. Union leaders are calling for a general strike to begin tomorrow.

Bardot pet plea

Paris — Brigitte Bardot, the film star turned animal rights campaigner, has urged animal owners to sterilise their pet population of 35 million under control. In an interview published in *France-Soir*, she called for the operation to be made free of charge. (Reuters)

Cardinal protest

Peking — China accused the Vatican of interfering in its affairs by making Ignatius Gong Pinmei, aged 90, formerly bishop of Shanghai and China's best known dissident cleric, a cardinal. He was jailed for 30 years in 1955 for rejecting the state-sanctioned Catholic church and is now in America. (Reuters)

Lightning strike

Toulouse — A house at Maleville, near here, has been destroyed by lightning for the third time in 20 years. Renovation work after the last strike had only just been completed. (Reuters)

Pact signed by Warsaw and Bonn

FROM GÉRARD STEICHEN IN BONN

AFTER months of wrangling, Germany and Poland yesterday signed a historic friendship treaty pledging them to put aside centuries of bitterness and strife. The treaty recognises the Oder-Neisse border between Poland and Germany and guarantees minority rights on both sides of the frontier.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said after the document was signed at a ceremony in Bonn: "It is of decisive importance for our continent that Germany and Poland have pledged to respect mutual borders, to build bridges of co-operation and to strengthen peaceful dialogue."

Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the Polish prime minister, called the agreement "a document of historic dimensions." Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, said the agreement was "one of the most important treaties Germany has signed since the second world war". It has been approved by Herr Kohl's cabinet but must be ratified by both countries' parliaments.

Letters, page 15

Baltic powder keg, page 14

IBM Portable Here at Last.

IBM have waited years to re-enter the laptop market. The longer they left it, the greater our expectations grew. As it is, the IBM PS/2 Model 140 SX is very good. Not revolutionary, no new technology. But excellent value and should do well against some fierce competition. (Compag have just slashed their portable prices). We have some in stock.

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John, mobile

Israelis accused of planning big rise in settler population

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI officials have drawn up plans to colonise large areas of the occupied territories to try to increase tenfold the Jewish population in some parts.

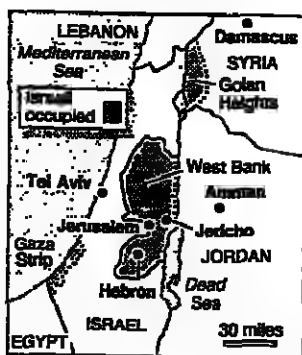
The potentially embarrassing scheme was revealed in documents obtained by the left-wing Peace Now movement which monitors the expansion of Jewish settlements on land taken by Israel in the 1967 six-day war.

Yesterday Eran Hayet, a spokesman for the movement, said 16,100 new homes were to be built around the Palestinian city of Hebron, south of Jerusalem. This would increase the settler population from 8,000 to 80,000. Similarly, 13,550 new homes were planned for the Gaza Strip, increasing to 50,000, from the current 4,000, the number of Jews there. In total, about 100,000 Jewish settlers, many of them right-wing extremists, live in the West Bank and Gaza. The two areas are home to 1.75 million Palestinians.

Reacting to the disclosure of the building plans, a housing ministry spokesman said the figures were "exaggerated out of proportion". But he did not deny the authenticity of the documents.

Apart from incurring the displeasure of the international community, and especially America, the plans would exacerbate the volatile relationship between settlers and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The documents do not make clear when the plan



would come into effect. At the moment bulldozers and workmen can be seen throughout the West Bank and Gaza clearing land, building roads and installing facilities for some 13,000 new homes to be completed within two years for 50,000 settlers.

Ariel Sharon, the housing minister who has initiated the most rapid and extensive expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories with the approval of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said the reports of a large-scale building project were untrue.

But several times this year he has made clear that he will do everything he can to promote the settlement policy. Recently he suggested that suburban Jerusalem would one day cover the 20 miles to Jericho, the Palestinian town in the Jordan valley.

The ruling right-wing Likud party has repeatedly emphasised that it will never withdraw from the occupied territories, which it considers part of Israel. It insists that Jewish settlements provide valuable security outposts for

the large Israeli population centres along the coast. The present government actively encourages new settlers by offering them cheaper mortgages for larger properties. Although the Israeli government is not ashamed of its ideology, it is vulnerable to international pressure to stop settlement expansion in the occupied territories, particularly since it needs an estimated \$10 billion (£6 billion) in loan guarantees to help accommodate the hundreds of thousands of immigrants arriving from the Soviet Union.

Government secure: Likud last night seemed set easily to survive the first of eight no-confidence motions tabled by opposition parties in the Knesset.

The motions give the opposition Labour party and smaller left-wing groups a chance to express their criticism of the government's domestic and foreign policies, but appear to have done little to damage Mr Shamir's current popularity and the commanding position which his party holds.



State of shock: a woman sitting on the rubble of her home in the village of Beloti in Georgia after the earthquake which shook the northern part of the republic on Saturday. Latest reports put the death toll at eight with around 200 people injured. Soviet television

showed the Georgian ski resort of Dzghva reduced to a pile of rubble after this third earthquake in the area in three months. "Dzghva exists only on the map," the announcer said. Roofs were caved in, stone-walled homes were reduced to mounds of

smooth river rock in the town of 11,000 people, which had already been heavily damaged by the much bigger earthquake in April. The regional government has asked for 2,000 tents, food and containers for drinking water, Tass news agency reported. (AP)

Turkish deputies threaten to rebel

FROM ANDREW FINKEL
IN ANKARA

SUPPORTERS of Yildirim Akbulut, the ousted Turkish prime minister, are threatening to resign from the Motherland party unless the new prime minister excludes from his cabinet certain political figures who, they claim, betrayed their leader.

The threat by up to 90 deputies could, if fulfilled, deal a deadly blow to the ruling party, which is trailing in a poor fourth place according to some of the latest opinion polls.

The new prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, said yesterday that he would not announce the composition of his government until after next week's religious holidays. This leaves Mr Akbulut in charge during this cooling-off period that allows the ruling party — and those upset by Mr Yilmaz having won control of the ruling party — to consider their positions. Mehmet Koceler, who fears his Islamic line will have no place in the Yilmaz cabinet, yesterday said that he would do nothing to endanger party unity.

Jordan pleads for an end to trials

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

JORDAN yesterday launched an appeal to governments, including those of Britain, the United States and France, to intervene to save its nationals sentenced to death by a Kuwaiti martial-law court, and to prevent further trials.

The Jordanian government made its appeal in letters sent as well to organisations including the Arab League, the United Nations, the Vatican, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International. The appeal, coming the day after three more people were sentenced to death by hanging, is likely to raise a fresh outcry against the conduct of the trials. At least four of the total of 12 alleged collaborators with Iraq sentenced to death so far are Jordanians. Jordan argues that the sentences were out of proportion to the charges.

The appeal said that the accused did not have "the proper means to defend themselves against the charges filed against them". The letters added: "We call for urgent intervention to protect the lives of those Jordanians facing execution and for an end to the summary trials, as well as for fair and just conduct of the cases, after ensuring that the legal rights of the accused are respected."

Many of more than 250 people held on collaboration charges are Jordanians of

Palestinian descent. Jordan has previously said it is greatly concerned about its nationals, but has been handicapped because Kuwait refuses it permission to reopen its embassy. Munaser Bibi, the director-general of the Jordanian foreign ministry, said: "We feel very bitter and dismayed about what is happening in Kuwait."

Western governments have expressed concern about the conduct of the hearings and the many allegations that confessions were extracted under torture. Kuwait, which insists the trials are fair, has set up a special panel to review the court's verdicts in an attempt to defuse this criticism of its postwar human rights record. But defence lawyers continue to be bitterly critical of the way in which justice is being meted out.

Jerusalem: Israel's ruling Likud party plans to renounce an old claim to land on both sides of the River Jordan, saying it wants to show Jordan it is serious about peace. "We don't want a conflict with Jordan, we want a peace agreement," a Likud spokesman said yesterday.

The United States is trying to arrange peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, including Jordan, which holds the east bank of the river and tacitly co-operates with Israel on security matters.

Arab force in Gulf backed by Kuwait

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Kuwaiti crown prince has said that security in the Gulf region lies in the presence of Arab troops, not Western ones. This appears to reverse his earlier view and illustrates the reconciliation that has taken place between Kuwait and Egypt.

Earlier disagreements about the funding of an Arab force and Kuwait's alleged preference for American soldiers had made Egypt and Syria, the two proposed bulwarks of the Arab force which was outlined in the postwar Damascus declaration of March 6, threaten to pull out most of their forces.

The crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, told the Cairo daily, *al-Akhbar*: "The hope for security lies not in the presence of foreign troops, but in the agreement of the Gulf Co-operation Council with dear Egypt and sister Syria."

His conciliatory remarks were delivered during a visit to Kuwait by a delegation of leading figures in the Egyptian media and after talks in Cairo

last week between President Mubarak of Egypt and the Saudi defence minister. In a separate interview published yesterday in the Kuwait daily *al-Qabas* which was resuming publication for the first time since the war, the Kuwaiti crown prince announced that new security arrangements for the Gulf would be published soon.

In the Gulf state of Qatar, experts from Egypt and Syria and the six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — held talks in preparation for a foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Kuwait next month at which final plans for the force will be hammered out.

Under the agreement signed in Damascus, troops from Syria and Egypt, countries which played leading roles in the Gulf war coalition against Iraq, were to form a nucleus of the Arab force. In return, the oil-rich Gulf states were due to give them substantial economic aid.

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THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA. BRINGING THE SUNSHINE BACK INTO AFRICA.

Displaying an inspired bias

A cultural chasm may seem to exist between the sharp criss-cross seaming of an Azzedine Alaïa skintight dress and the Japanese droop of a Comme des Garçons shift by Rei Kawakubo. Yet the creators of both 1990s styles are linked by a strong thread that runs through the 20th century: the inspirational techniques of the designer Madeleine Vionnet.

Although Vionnet lived to be almost 100 (she died, aged 99, in 1975) and her career began at the age of 12, the Maison Vionnet flourished in Paris for only 20 years. The challenging bias cut, fluttering scarf necklines and seemingly seamless tops that became her signature style were all pioneered while she was working for Jacques Doucet in Paris in 1907. Her fluid line was the trailer for every Hollywood sex-siren's slither of bias-cut satin, and continues to inspire fashion designers today.

Vionnet ranks with Cristóbal Balenciaga as the two great technicians of the fashion trade. In 1973 she told the writer Bruce Chatwin: "I am the best dressmaker in the world and I feel it, too!" His interview, published in a collection of essays entitled *What Am I Doing Here*, gives a rare glimpse of this shadowy legend.

"The association of haute couture with the very rich makes it suspect for many people," Chatwin wrote. "For Madeleine Vionnet, who once was penniless, couture is not a minor art. Like the dance it is an evanescent art, but a great one. She sees

A glossy new book pays tribute to Madeleine Vionnet, who declared herself, aged 97, 'the best dressmaker in the world'. Liz Smith reports

herself as an artist on the level of, say, Pavlova. She was single-minded in the pursuit of perfection, and even her exemplary common sense is tinged with a streak of fanaticism."

Chatwin's piece would have been the perfect accompaniment to the startling imagery in *Vionnet*, a glossy book by Jacqueline Demornex, which, in documenting Vionnet's grip on 20th century style, quotes all too sparsely from it.

Azzedine Alaïa, the Tunisian-born designer who reverts Vionnet's draping technique, explains in the book the problems her clients faced trying to put on one of her dresses; some became quite hysterical, not knowing how or where to tie the belt

on a diagonally-seamed crêpe dress, or what to do with the panel which fell to the ground.

Alaïa describes the four hours he spent once in the Musée de la Mode in the Louvre working out the intricacies of a "shapeless white dress on a hanger. The secret lay in a series of movements which had to be made in the correct order," he says. "Her draping is fantastic, really ahead of its time. It is not sewn into a fixed position, the dress is recreated every time it's worn." In 1984, Alaïa created his own skirt draped à la Vionnet. It never sold. Nobody had any idea how to tie it.

Apprenticed in the delicate craft of sewing lingerie, Vionnet was an accomplished seamstress. In 1901 she was head seamstress at Callot Soeurs, making toiles (the first cloth pattern) for one of the sisters, Madame Gerber, who set impeccable standards. "Thanks to her I was able to produce Rolls-Royces. Without her, I would only have made Fords," Vionnet said. In 1907 she joined Jacques Doucet, where she began to develop her bias cut and indulged her taste for *déshabille* with fluttering, petalled and handkerchief-point dresses.

In 1912 she opened her own house, only to close it again during the first world war. In 1923, backed by Galeries Lafayette, Maison Vionnet reopened in sumptuous

new premises, where 1,200 seamstresses created draped and clingy bias satin dresses, often with petalled skirts with flared godets, bare-backed with scarf necklines. One Vionnet number was described by *Vogue* as "an exquisite swirl of crêpe de Chine, set off by a golden garland resembling an acanthus leaf. A piece of material forming a point serves as a train."

A Vionnet dress never started with a sketch. It was cut and draped in miniature on a rosewood manikin doll, 31in high. "You must dress a body in a fabric, not construct a dress," Vionnet said.

In 1940 Vionnet rowed with her backers. With a war on and an uncertain future, she decided to close her doors and retire.

● *Vionnet* by Jacqueline Demornex is published next Monday by Thames & Hudson, price £65



Today's designer gives a lesson in draping yesterday's Vionnet dress: Azzedine Alaïa takes the panel, twists it, coils it around the first panel, et voilà



Lamé evening dress of 1937, "draped in the antique style"

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LEVER

Japan takes the wraps off

Functional goods in simple packaging fill the racks of London's newest shop

C an Utility clothing and furnishings, designed to overcome wartime shortages in the Forties, become a fashionable concept for the Nineties? The Japanese believe they can, and are making a virtue out of the "no designer label" tag on a new store, Muji, which opens in central London next month selling functional goods in simple packaging.

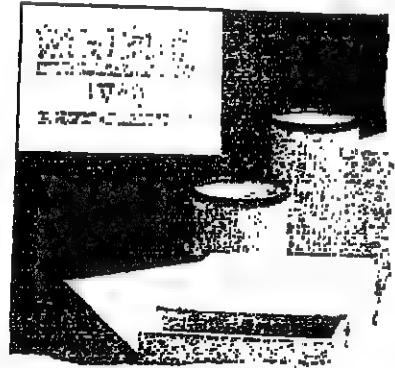
The shop, at the top of Cornaby Street, displays fashion and furnishings ware-house style, in simple metal racks. Logos and designer names are absent. More than 90 per cent of the items are designed and made in Japan, and the rest are made in Thailand, China, Taiwan and India. The emphasis is on natural materials, natural colours and simple packaging. By no stretch of the imagination can the clothing, sized up to Western standards, be called "fashion". Similarly, the furnishings and accessories are best described as functional.

Despite the elimination of unnecessary production processes and wasteful packaging, prices are competitive rather than cheap. Stationery and bedlinen prices are comparable with those in department stores. A drawstring bag at £55 and a plastic box with pull-out drawers at £22.50 are not bargains.

Muji offers a mixture of merchandise from towels (grey, white or navy only) to luggage (canvas travel and shoulder bags), soaps (white, three in a pack) sheets (unbleached cream or denim cotton), disposable cups (brown paper) and ceramics

(cream-coloured earware). Practical, unpretentious clothing includes pure cotton shirts for men and women, T-shirts and polo necks, track-suits, underwear and pyjamas, and is all a far cry from Liberty's fashion floors next door.

In Japan Muji's parent, the Ryohin Keikaku company, has 221 similar outlets and an annual turnover of £100 million. The concept was launched in 1980 by the Japanese supermarket chain,



Plain speaking: from a Muji leaflet

Seiyu, and has blossomed since, fuelled by concern for the environment. A partnership has been formed with Liberty to market the company's products in Europe, and Liberty's chairman, Harry Webber, defends the timing of the launch. "The product is right for now. It's not over-designed or fancy or badly made."

"The prices are very sensible, and people thinking about the environment more will respond to the lack of packaging."

NICOLE SWENGLEY
● Muji opens on July 8 at 20 Great Marlborough Street, West Soho, London W1 1HB (01-494 1118)

LUTYENS: The article (June 4) on Britannie House, BP's new headquarters, gave the impression that it was fitted out by Lutyens Design Associates. They supplied the furniture, but the interiors were the responsibility of HOK International Limited

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THEATRE

Spicing up his salad days

Julian Slade (below), once Britain's most successful writer of musicals, is back on the London stage. Jim Hiley reports

For 30 years Julian Slade has struggled to escape the shadow of *Salad Days*. His end-of-term romp became Britain's longest-running musical in its day and made him the 1950s forerunner of Andrew Lloyd Webber, though without the operatic pretensions. But since then Slade's intimate confections have found little favour. *Salad Days* record has been overtaken several times, and the theatre has neglected an inventive songwriter whose capacities stretch far beyond the balm of his most famous musical.

This week Slade is attempting a comeback, if on a small scale, with a revival of his *Nutmeg and Ginger* at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, south-west London. "I wouldn't describe *Salad Days* as a burden," says Slade, now 61. "But I've done about ten musicals since, and it's depressing always to be known as the *Salad Days* man. Other people may see a pattern in my work, but to me each show adopts a very different style."

His musicals share certain characteristics, however: inconsequential humour, charm, toe-tapping dance numbers and plush ballads that refuse to fall on repeated listening. But Slade believes that because his songs are instantly hummable, they are too easily dismissed as meretricious. "The hardest task in a musical is to achieve the right kind of directness and simplicity. You have to bear in mind that the audience is hearing the songs for the first time."

He describes himself as "a very British talent" and, true to British tradition, his success came almost by accident. After Cambridge he joined the Bristol Old Vic as a spear-carrier. Volunteers were sought to write a Christmas show, and Slade found himself teamed with an actress 17 years his senior, the late Dorothy Reynolds. He composed the music, and together they wrote the book and lyrics. Their third collaboration, *Salad Days*, was intended only for a three-week run at Bristol. But it moved to the Vaudeville in 1954, and stayed until 1960. During this time, too, *Free as Air* enjoyed a year's excursion at the Savoy. But after that, notes Slade ruefully, "our shows always went well



out of town, but London didn't seem to want them." By the 1960s, the composers of musicals were striving to catch up with rock 'n' roll and the angry realism that engulfed the rest of British drama. Soho was the favoured setting; Millicent Martin or Sheila Hancock invariably appeared as the brassy good-time girl. This was scarcely Slade and Reynolds territory: much of *Salad Days* is set in a London park, where a magic piano causes passers-by to dance uncontrollably. *Free as Air* takes place on an imaginary Channel Island, threatened

'British impresarios do little to nurture songwriters' talent, and are quick to discard them when fashions change'

with nothing more dire than an influx of tourists. They tried to catch the new mood with *Wildcat Dreams* in 1961, and even wrote a rock number for this saga of rural nonconformity. But they could not resist the interludes of genteel fantasy suggested by the title, and *Wildcat Dreams* failed. Amicably, Slade and Reynolds dissolved their partnership.

In the Fifties, Slade had been called a golden boy. Now, like Rattigan and Coward, he has come to symbolise everything under attack. However, nobody ever stopped to ask whether a valuable talent was in danger of being discarded. But Julian Slade carried on writing musicals.

His first solo effort was *Nutmeg and Ginger*, adapted from Francis Beaumont's comedy of 1609, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*. London managements were conspicuous by their absence from its opening at the Everyman, Cheltenham, in 1963. "I always felt *Nutmeg and Ginger* deserved a longer life. After Cheltenham, I believed fate would intervene, but it never did."

Instead, Slade's brother, Adrian, stepped in — but not until last year. The former president of the Liberal Party sits on the board of the Orange Tree. The company was about to move from the room over a pub it had occupied since 1971 into a handsome new theatre-in-the-round built in the shell of a disused school. The Orange Tree director, Sam Walters, found time to listen to a tape of the Everyman production, and scheduled the musical for his first season at the new premises.

"There's a lot riding on the production," says Walters, "for both Julian and the Orange Tree. We've gambled on running *Nutmeg and Ginger* for ten weeks. Most of our shows run only four or five." The royalties from a West End transfer would be useful, too: Walters has yet to raise the final £100,000 of the building costs.

In Walters' production Howard Samuels plays the grocer's apprentice, Ralph, whose employer insists that he joins in a performance by a troupe of strolling players. While Ralph pursues sordid mock-chivalric adventures in the play-within-the-play, another apprentice, Jasper, woos a merchant's daughter, feigning death to secure her hand.

"Beaumont's play is entertaining, but strange," says Slade. "It's also very modern in its mix of fantasy and reality. I'd say my version is as close to Jacobean comedy as *The Yeomen of the Guard* was to the period of Henry VIII."

The production has been partially financed by the im-



Succumbing to the power of the piano: Simon Green and Susan Beagley, entranced by the music, in the Yorkshire television version of Julian Slade's *Salad Days*

presario Cameron Mackintosh, whose enthusiasm for musical theatre began when he saw *Salad Days* as a schoolboy. He met Slade after the performance, and the two have remained friends ever since. During Mackintosh's early career, he would frequently ask the composer for advice.

But the roles were reversed in 1972, when Mackintosh brought Slade's stylish adaptation of *Trelawny of the Wells* from Bristol to London. He recommended that three of the songs be rewritten. After initial hesitation, Slade decided he was right.

His warmest-ever reviews came from *Trelawny*. At last, he seemed about to lose the *Salad Days* tag. But *Trelawny*'s run was curtailed because the Prince of Wales theatre had been booked previously for another show. Mackintosh went on to produce mega-musicals such as

Les Misérables and *Miss Saigon*, setting a trend which helped put his mentor further in the shade. Nothing else by Slade has been seen in London until now. By way of compensation, the ubiquitous *Salad Days* was given a television production in the Eighties, with Slade himself playing a walk-on role.

If *Nutmeg and Ginger* succeeds, Slade hopes that some neglected shows may be revived. One candidate is *The Pursuit of Love*, which he adapted for Bristol in 1967 with the blessing — and occasional participation — of the author, Nancy Mitford. "She rewrote some of the dialogue, but made no attempt to change the songs. She was tone deaf, after all."

The number of songwriters who can work effectively in the theatre is painfully small. But British impresarios, apart from Cameron Mackintosh, do little to nurture their talent, and are quick to discard them when fashions change. Slade is long overdue for reassessment. Like *Trelawny*, *Nutmeg and Ginger* has a distinctive score that bears only a passing resemblance to *Salad Days*. But such is the force of cliché, some will no doubt insist they are indistinguishable.

In his very British way, Slade refuses to complain. "I don't have a chip on my shoulder. It's too easy to seem bitter if you haven't had your name in lights for a long time."

● *Nutmeg and Ginger* is in preview at the Orange Tree, Richmond, Surrey (081-940 3633) and opens on Friday

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

Sea pictures true to the elements

A typical mid-festival Saturday in Aldeburgh. Sheets of rain and sea-spray lashed the borough. Drenched residents scurried along at noon under midnight skies. If the ghost of Peter Grimes had risen out of the salty foam and stalked along Crabbe Street, dragging the obligatory boy apprentice by the collar, nobody would have been much surprised — though few, I suspect, would have stopped on such a filthy day to join him in a round of "Old Joe has gone fishing".

Hearing the London Sinfonietta open that evening's concert under Oliver Knussen with the Four Sea Interludes and Passacaglia from Britten's *Peter Grimes* was therefore rather an eerie experience. Of course, these fantastic sound-pictures can be heard in antiseptic concert-hall conditions a hundred times a season. The opera itself can be seen in productions (such as this season's brilliant English National Opera staging) that move about as far as possible away from the shingle and fishing nets of Aldeburgh. All of that counts for little as soon as music-lovers get within sniffing distance of the Suffolk coast.

See a glint of sunlight on waves, or the reed marshes motionless in the moonlight, or a foghorn echoing out to sea, and Britten's music floods irresistibly into the mind. And conversely, sit in Snape Maltings listening to that electrifying storm music, and the imagination inevitably turns towards the windswept sea.

Saturday's performance was not even particularly good. It was marred early on by some careless brass playing, though redeemed finally by Paul Silverthorne's sinuously elegiac viola solo in the Passacaglia. But perhaps the players had their minds on the epic programme ahead, for this concert also contained, besides chunks of Alban Berg, music by Harrison Birtwistle (the festival's featured composer) and Knussen himself.

The contrast between the three generations of British music was extraordinary. Britten close to Verdi in his power of explicit communication; Birtwistle forever oblique,

knotted, both tortured and tortuous in manner; and Knussen the post-modern wizard, equally capable of producing dazzling bursts of instrumental invention or of producing nothing at all.

Admittedly, the contrast was exaggerated here, since Knussen produced an exceedingly lively concoction — his orchestral suite *The Way to Castle Yonder*, drawn from his opera *Higglety Pigglety Pop!* — while Birtwistle was represented by one of his gloomiest and most drawn-out pieces.

Birtwistle's 1976 *Melencolia I* meditates on Günter Grass, meditating on a Dürer engraving, meditating on the essentially moribund nature of human endeavour. In other words, *Gawain* without the jokes. Even Antony Pay's resourceful playing of the mournful solo clarinet part, when set against strings often divided into dense 62-part clusters, served to bring to mind Thomas Hardy's line "the dearest thing alive enough to have strength to die".

The Berg pieces — Three Fragments from *Wozzeck* and the concert aria *Der Wein* — showcased the adventurous musicality of the soprano Lucy Shelton. Her voice is not vast, and in *Der Wein* the orchestra covered her too much, but she has a superb sense of intonation and of 20th century style: her *sprechstimme* in the *Wozzeck* extracts was exquisitely ethereal, and matched in emotional weight by Knussen's full-blooded handling of the great D minor interlude.

In the same hall on Sunday, the Britten-Pears Orchestra — Snape's own high-powered student ensemble — played a boldly mixed programme of Haydn, Mozart, Schoenberg and Kirchner with spirit and dexterity, diminished only by the occasional intonation lapse in the strings.

The rarity was an orchestral *Toccata* by the 72-year-old American composer Leon Kirchner, who was conducting a relentlessly busy work, fustily obsessed with a single rhythmic cell, but well-crafted in a mid-20th century style.

RICHARD MORRISON

JAZZ

Blue notes in black and white

As some great thinker must have said at one time or other, jazz is less a type of music, more a state of mind: sophisticated, louche and, above all, hip. No record company has ever conveyed that message quite as successfully as Blue Note.

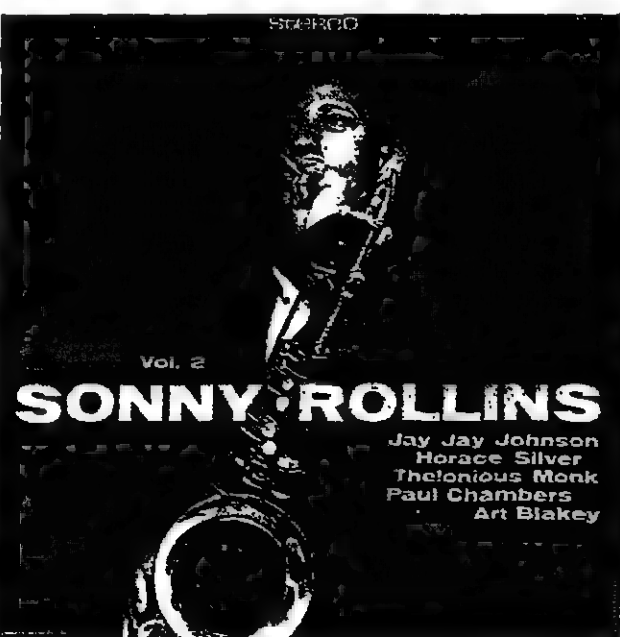
While other labels may have boasted a more distinguished and innovative catalogue, Blue Note represented the ultimate in image-making, an achievement celebrated in *The Cover Art of Blue Note Records*. Aimed primarily at the graphic design market, the large-format work brings together reproductions of scores of album sleeves.

The idea may sound like a promising — and over-priced — cure for insomnia, but there is a compulsive quality to the book, quite apart from the obvious pleasure to be had in reliving musical memories. The photographs, of Sonny Rollins, Dexter Gordon and the rest of the label's stars, represent an enduring gallery of post-war jazz.

Founded in 1939 by the German émigré Alfred Lion, the firm marked up its first hit with Sidney Bechet's version of "Summertime". Later, the company became inseparably linked with hard bop, the driving, gospel-influenced style associated with Horace Silver and Art Blakey.

In the mid-Sixties, Lion and his compatriot Francis Wolff sold out to the industry giant

Clive Davis on a record label which has captured the true soul of jazz in print



Vintage portrait of a jazz artist: Sonny Rollins' album cover, illustrated in *The Cover Art of Blue Note Records*

Liberty. Blue Note began to lose direction, pursuing renewed commercial success with undistinguished fusion albums. The rebirth came in 1983 when the company, by this time part of the EMI empire, issued the first of a series of new recordings, along with re-issues of classic or

unreleased material. The process continues today.

The book puts the emphasis broadly on a two-year period from the mid-Fifties onwards, during the reign of the graphic designer Reid Miles. With his bold, sometimes eccentric use of typography and visual puns, Miles fashioned a

wholly distinctive style — no less recognisable, as the book points out, than the plaintive phrasing of Billie Holiday.

Wolff's evocative black and white photographs (most of which were taken during the recording sessions) were given added intensity through imaginative cropping. Sometimes a shot could be reduced to little more than a sliver in a sea of gigantic text. Commissions were also carried out by other artists; among them was the young Andy Warhol, represented here by sketches for the guitarist Kenny Burrell and saxophonist Johnny Griffin.

Not surprisingly perhaps, some covers were sometimes more memorable than the music inside. The deep-focus photograph on *A New Perspective*, with Donald Byrd posing against an impenetrable E-type Jaguar, is a prime example.

The rock singer Joe Jackson paid his own tribute to Blue Note chic on his album *Body and Soul*, posing in a recreation of Wolff's slightly contrived portrait of Sonny Rollins. The influence of the vintage portraits can still be felt today, even though the label's current designs no longer stand out from the crowd.

These days, every other television commercial seems to contain the cliché of a young man with a horn. Blue Note has shown how to do it with style.

ARTS REVIEWS, PAGE 18
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Shooting stars of the circus

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In the Euro elections two years ago, the Green party won 15 per cent of the votes cast. The main parties were afraid it might win seats in the Commons. Now the Greens are a blip in the opinion polls, vanishing with the wintery summer which makes us wish for more, and speedier, global warming. The Greens suddenly seem irrelevant. They were a plaything of our feeble and fickle media which accentuate the fashion of the moment and then when the public is bored promote something else. The media are a revolving circus of entertainment dependent on frequent changes of the items highlighted in its programme.

The arrival of John Major at 10 Downing Street made an instant and favourable impression on the media and hence on the public; the government's opinion poll ratings soared. It was Labour's turn to trail in the polls. That was nearly seven months ago. Now, after much disparagement of Mr Major's abilities by the media, some prompted from within his party, the roundabout has turned to show Labour some ten points ahead of the Conservatives.

Tory MPs are notorious for panicking when they feel their seats threatened. Some blame themselves for getting rid of Margaret Thatcher, some blame Mrs Thatcher for not keeping quiet. She must be innocent, on the Sunday before the first round of the Tory leadership contest on November 20 an opinion poll in the *Independent on Sunday* recorded that if the Tories were led by Mrs Thatcher they would get 42 per cent and Labour 44 per cent: a far better position than today's. Even this is on a par with the 94 points Labour lead in the Gallup poll a year before the 1987 election.

I remain convinced that Mrs Thatcher, who always came full of fight from behind, would have won the next election. I am convinced Mr Major can do the same provided he emphasises his similarities with and not his superficial differences from Mrs Thatcher.

There should be no difficulty. I have followed everything the new premier has said and can find no change of substance. The privatisation drive is to continue. The education and National Health Service reforms retain the same thrust. The same policy for getting inflation low, and keeping it there, is in force.

I can see not one iota of swerving from Mrs Thatcher's approach to the European Community, down to the bulwark of no accession to a single currency, an independent central European bank or any form of political Euro federation without the unlikely event of affirmative votes by a distant future Parliament. Mr Major does not intend to commit Britain to irreparable and unnecessary losses of sovereignty. With growing doubts among our EC partners about creeping centralism I dare to predict Mr Major will have a triumph at the vital EC council meetings in December, and that Mrs Thatcher will be well pleased with the outcome.

"Thatcherism" was not a word invented by Mrs Thatcher. It evolved naturally into general usage after her manifest achievements in waking Britain up. Artificially to coin the word "Majorism" without Mr Major producing an effective new alternative philosophy is hubris. True compassion and caring have already been shown by the enormous real increases in public spending and are diminished when advisers seek to put fancy, fashionable frills on them. When the first hard signs of economic success and recovery arrive in a manner which makes the public feel they are lasting, Mr Major will be astonished at the suddenness with which his fortunes in the opinion polls change for the better and he will be able to take them at the flood.

Anatol Lieven argues that Western indifference to Baltic independence will have a disastrous outcome

Sparks in the powder keg



No place for Russians? The skyline of Tallinn, the Estonian capital

Western governments should be putting much more pressure on Moscow to move towards granting Baltic independence. President Gorbachev is happy enough that a stalemate continues over the Baltic. So, too, is Boris Yeltsin, the newly elected Russian president. His choice of a soldier as running mate shows his awareness of the need to keep the military and Russian nationalists happy. But the longer independence is delayed, the more likely it is that the patience of the Balts in the face of continuing Soviet military provocation will crack, and lead to violence with a disastrous outcome.

However, as well as going to their aid, Western governments have a duty to spell out clearly to the Balts what they are risking by their present attitude towards the Russian and Polish populations. This attitude is summed up in the words of an Estonian nationalist leader: "The Russian colonists in Estonia have no more right to ask for guarantees than do Mexican illegal immigrants in the United States. But they do not need to worry, because we will give them all the rights and status enjoyed by Turkish guest workers in Germany." No irony was intended.

This kind of prejudice, coupled with the tensions that inevitably accompany economic change, threatens to undermine the genuine support of many among the Russian minorities for

Baltic independence. Their support, however, remains largely leaderless and unchanneled, in part because of the refusal of the new national governments to give minorities to non-Balts.

In Estonia and Latvia opposition to granting citizenship to non-Balts is paralyzing not merely constitutional but also economic reforms. These governments are determined that only citizens should be given "investment vouchers" and allowed to buy state property.

The future economic position of the Russian population in the Baltics is in any case gloomy, because so many of them are workers in obsolescent heavy industrial plants and lack the education to adapt successfully to modern capitalism.

The editor of an Estonian English-language newspaper has said that despite recent laws he is not in favour of the Estonian state encouraging Russians to learn Estonian, because this would eventually destroy the "purity" of the language. Since, however, he had already made it clear that knowledge of Estonian would be a prerequisite for state employment, the implications of his remark are not difficult to understand.

In the elections for Russian

president, Mr Yeltsin and all the other candidates felt bound to give public assurances of support for the rights of the Russian minorities in the Baltic. In different ways, all of them also made plays for the support of the army — which is strongly interested in retaining some kind of hold over the area. The second-class position of Russian minorities is already being used as a weapon by anti-democratic and militarist forces against the Russian democratic movement, and this threatens peace and stability in the region.

A senior Scandinavian diplomat said recently that "it is very much in our interest, and that of

the Balts themselves, that Mr Yeltsin should in fact put pressure on the Balts to grant equal rights to the Russians." He said that Baltic leaders had not realised how much minority problems could obstruct any future attempt by the Balts to enter Europe. Nor have most Western diplomats. No Western foreign ministry has yet thought seriously about how to respond to attempts to change Baltic frontiers, yet with autonomy demands now coming from both the ancient community of Lithuanian Poles and the Narva region of Estonia this matter is about to become pressing.

The influence of Western

democratic thought in Lithuania is being diminished by the contempt many Lithuanians feel for what they call Western "cowardice" and "treachery" towards the Baltic. But the question of Polish rights in Lithuania is one in which Western diplomacy legitimately could bring pressure to bear. While it is true that the Poles are being "manipulated" by the Kremlin to oppose Lithuanian independence, the Lithuanians have given them good reason to do so. During the Soviet military attack in January, Polish deputies defied the wishes of their constituents by issuing a strong statement in support of independence. Since then, the Lithuanian government has failed to keep its promise to come up with a programme to meet Polish concerns by the beginning of this month.

Increasingly chauvinist attitudes towards the Poles are part of a worrying pattern of extremist politics here, with supporters of the radical nationalist government openly accusing ex-communists such as Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former prime minister, of being "KGB agents" and calling for them to be tried and their parties banned.

Polish moderates are suggesting a state treaty with Poland,

which would exclude Moscow and also guarantee the rights of the small Lithuanian minority in Poland; but so allergic are Lithuanian nationalists to any Polish role in Lithuania that they have even successfully opposed the sending of Polish priests to Lithuanian Polish parishes. They admit that they would combat the communists, but are afraid that they would encourage "Polonisation". A deputy from the Polish parliament in Warsaw told me last week that most Polish deputies strongly support Lithuanian independence, but that "many Lithuanian deputies and leaders are rather nationalist and are apparently not interested in contacts with Poland".

A senior official of the Vilnius municipal council said: "Our aim is to make every area of Lithuania as Lithuanian as possible." He added, however, that "we should postpone making any decision concerning these questions until after we have achieved real independence and control our borders, so that Soviet interference is excluded". This is simply code for "once we are independent, we shall deal with the minorities as we please". It is not a code that the Lithuanian Poles find difficult to crack.

The minorities badly need an outside guarantor of their rights. The West must not forget them, when they support the Baltic states' demands for independence from Moscow. Peace in the region could depend on it.

The fatal attraction of murder

Serial killers long for publicity just as audiences hunger for the sight of blood.

William Cash wonders why we queue to stare death in the face



In search of notoriety: Anthony Hopkins plays the serial killer Dr Hannibal Lecter, who fascinates audiences in the time-honoured manner

argued that the daily images of unexplained death shown on television news broadcasts were making people feel insecure. Yet the cinema, with its ritual of popcorn and the promise of a happy ending, has become the modern temple of worship. The flayed victims of Buffalo Bill give the audience a momentary sense of immortality, spiked with a sharp reminder of just how fragile life is. The *frisson* this provides accounts for much of our enjoyment of psycho-thrillers.

The serial killer does not, as is popularly supposed, kill at random, but acts methodically. A chief theory put forward to explain the explosion of such crimes (there are an estimated 50 such killers at work in America) is

that man's basic urge is first food, then security, love, sex and finally, if these are achieved, self-esteem. In the 18th century, most crime was committed for survival; by the mid-19th century most murders took place in middle class homes and the motive was domestic security; at the turn of the century sex crime emerged as a reaction to the "forbidden" nature of sexuality.

Most serial killers are driven by an injured sense of identity coupled with a thirst for fame, power and recognition. They often send notes to the police to confirm their identity — and invariably leave a "signature" mark. The newspaper and television publicity gives them a thrill. The recent legal wrangle

over allowing cameras to film and broadcast California's executions indicates that prisoners appear to want the public to witness their final moments. As Kenneth Erskine, alias the 1976 Stockwell Strangler, told police: "I wanted to be famous."

At the turn of the century, Professor A.C. Bradley said Iago had a "moveless malignity", being a monster who simply committed evil for evil's sake. This is nonsense. Iago had a deep, personal grudge against society. He was snubbed by Othello, fancied Desdemona and was jealous of smooth-talking Cassio. Likewise, the critics who have dubbed Hannibal Lecter "Dr Evil" or "the most chilling monster in history" are glorifying evil without understanding any

thing about either monsters or serial killers.

An authority on serial killers, a Cambridge don, who does not wish to be named because of the extreme sensitivity of the subject, argues that so-called monsters often reveal the human, rather than the diabolic or enigmatic forces of life. Dividing the world into heroes and villains may be comforting, enabling us to point a finger at Dr Lecter and his kind. However, instead of offloading our sense of shared guilt on such creations, we should remember that people are often not nice, he says. Judge Brock's cry at the end of *Hedda Gabler*, "But merciful God, people don't do such things", is suspect if we look at history's ghastly record (Caligula, Bokassa, Saddam).

Serial killers and murderers terrify not because they are horned beasts, but because they are extreme examples of humanity. The film's character of Buffalo Bill, for example, is based on three infamous American killers: Ted Bundy, the handsome man who allegedly killed 30 women; Ed Gein, who skinned his victims and made lampshades from dried flesh and furniture from their bones; and Gary Heidnik, who practised cannibalism in an underground death factory.

Just as Shakespeare made Macbeth a tragic character who is humanised by his guilt and fear, so the power of Hopkins's performance lies in how he trains the young FBI agent in human understanding.

Since fame is the fatal attraction of the serial killer, the publicity that *The Silence of the Lambs* has received in both America and Britain is likely to fuel the ambitions of more killers. This is a fact of life.

In his famous essay, Orwell argued that for connoisseurs of murder modern killings were disappointing, as they lacked cunning and appeared meaningless. Villains such as Crippen practised in the golden age of murder, he said.

While Hannibal the Cannibal has joined the high table of villainy, it must be remembered that *The Silence of the Lambs* is a nightmare from which we can awake. The film is enjoyable because the audience feels enriched by the human and tragic — not monstrous — passions of pity and terror, which in the real world cause us suffering and pain. As Swift wrote in his *Memoirs of the Extraordinary Life of Martinus Scribbler*: "How I wonder at the stupidity of mankind, who can affix the name of monstrosity to what is only a variety of beauty."

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The *Caretaker*, which opens in London on Thursday, was the key play of my student years. Tramps were all the rage when I was a drama student at Bristol university in the mid-Seventies. Almost every play we performed or studied seemed to have at least one scene in which a tramp would pop his head around the door to grunt something of significance.

In the plays we students wrote ourselves, the tramp would often be given the last line, which the director would train the actor to recite in a tone of anguished yet ruthlessly enigmatic quizzicality, with a subtext of undefeated optimism, perhaps topped up with a hint of despair. The last line would be something like, "Your tea's ready" or "Anybody there?" and then the stage would be plunged into darkness.

"Very stark," the audience would mutter as they shuffled out of the theatre. Sometimes, in a subtle advance on this tradition, the tramp would exit, and the sound effect of a car screeching would be heard. Someone would then rush from the stage, returning horror-struck to exclaim: "He's dead. The tramp's dead. Dead. Dye hear me? DEAD!" before the lights went out. "Extremely stark," the audience would mutter, approvingly.

This penchant for tramps could be traced back to the influence of Harold Pinter, who was influenced by Beckett. By the mid-Seventies all the most fashionable playwrights — Edgier, Brenton, Hare, Bond — were busily creating tramps galore,

many of them symbolic of the state of the nation. Our elocution classes were now performed in reverse. ("Could you speak a little less clearly, dear? Head down, look away from the audience, mumble into the cupboard and then cough — super!")

Pinter's influence spread beyond the stage. Convinced that tramps held enchanted secrets, my flat mates would invite them back for coffee and talk about life. Often, we would visit a seedy hotel in the city centre, where tramps had grown so shaky after drinking too much rough scum that they could manoeuvre the pint-mug to their lips only by first tying handkerchiefs around the handle and then looping them around their necks as pulleys. This was also the time of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, and we believed that wisdom accrued to those leading a life on the road. After a while we discovered that our own journey from Clifton to the centre was a far greater distance than the tramps had ever travelled. The notion that they roam far and wide is, I think, a clever marketing ploy: most of ours found it hard enough to get to the bar and back.

For most of the year, a tramp sat on a wall at the end of the drama department road, opposite a cafe where students used to congregate. Like the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, to whom he bore a passing resemblance, he did not talk much, but most of us felt he radiated an inner depth beyond the confines of mere words. Each year at least one bright postgraduate in the

department's film and television unit could be spotted with his camera crew filming this old chap as he sat on the wall, mumbling with a natural aplomb that was the envy of student actors. This would help them earn their PhDs, which would help them get into the BBC, which would, in turn, allow them to shoot grainy documentaries about tramps on a regular basis.

After *The Caretaker*, Pinter wrote about tramps less and less. The progress of his success as a playwright can be measured in the social leaps of his characters — from *The Caretaker* (tramp) to *The Homecoming* (working class) through *Old Times* (middle class) to *No Man's Land* (Hampstead). Meanwhile, Pinter's own public proclamations from Campden Hill Square recall the enigmatic sparseness associated with his tramps. In 1986, he wrote a poem entitled simply "Poem". It reads, in its entirety: "I saw Leg Hutton in his prime/Another time, another time." The story goes that Pinter faxed this work to his old friend Simon Gray. Wishing for an immediate response, he later telephoned Gray. "So what do you think of it?" he asked. "Well actually Harold," replied Gray, playing for time, "I haven't quite finished it yet."

I trust the revival of *The Caretaker* will signal a new boom time for tramps. My advice to any tramp seeking wider recognition is to nip down to Bristol and sit tight on that wall. By Friday, the student film crews will be queuing.

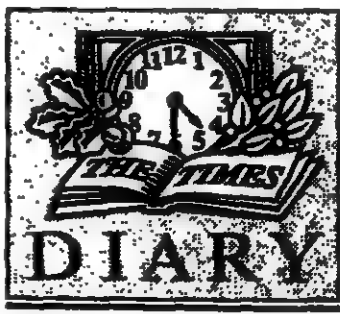
A foot in both camps

While the Conservative Party agonises over the conflicting views on Europe of Mrs Thatcher and John Major, it emerged yesterday that one of the principal architects of the former prime minister's Chicago speech is the man who has also helped to shape Major's more conciliatory views on the subject. Edward Llewellyn, who heads the foreign affairs section at Conservative Central Office, is proud of his role in advising both leaders on the contentious matter.

Despite his duties of briefing and providing Major with ammunition for question time in the Commons, Llewellyn also found time to provide two drafts for Mrs Thatcher's Chicago speech.

When she first fired a warning shot on Europe across the government's bows in Washington, Llewellyn had a hand in drafting her speech. Only days later, when Major delivered his first important speech on the subject to the Konrad Adenauer Institute in Germany, which was markedly different in tone, it was again Llewellyn who was responsible.

The ambitious, Oxford-educated researcher in his mid-20s put himself forward as Major's political secretary when Mrs Thatcher resigned. He failed to get the post because his age counted against him, but has been highly regarded since at 10 Downing Street. Yet since his failure to land that job he has also been a regular at Mrs Thatcher's Westminster office helping to answer her post. The former prime minister is said to regard him as "one of us". Llewellyn diplomatically declines to discuss his dual role, other than saying: "Whenever Europe is the focus of a speech, I have worked on most of them." That is, until last Friday, when he



was conspicuously absent from the team which produced Mr Major's keynote speech to the Welsh conference. Some senior Tories are demanding that if he is to remain on the payroll, he must make his loyalties clear.

● The Red Cross is still trying to locate all but three of the 50 celebrity-signed fivers that were due to be auctioned for charity before they were accidentally banked by an over-enthusiastic employee. At least the notes bearing the signatures of John Major and M. C. Hammer have now surfaced. A sharp-eyed assistant in a St Alban's bakery spotted the distinctive red-linked signature of the star rapper while John Butler, an East End builder, handed in the Major fiver. He has now generously offered £350 to buy it back.

Taken as read

Articles are here to stay. After five years of argument, at Covent Garden the device is to be used this week for the first time to accompany performances in English. The decision to use surtitles for the last two performances of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Gawain* will outrage purists who had only reluctantly accepted their use in foreign language productions.

The use of surtitles began in November 1986 with a production of Janacek's *Jenufa*, and has been

heavily criticised by those who feel they belittle opera's grand passions. But *Gawain* has proved the perfect vehicle to continue the experiment, Covent Garden says. "We had a run of performances at the start of the production and then a gap before the next lot, so we could try it both ways," a spokesman says. The jury is still out on whether the feature will become permanent, but the odds must be that they are now part of the operatic furniture.

Open House?

Lord Rothschild, who opened Spencer House to the public for the first time last month amid universal backslapping from the heritage establishment, appears to have become a victim of his own success. The house is open only on Sundays from 11.30am to 4.45pm, and three-hour waits are not unusual. Tours allow a maximum of 15 people in at a time.

"You may not get in on the day you queue, unless you arrive first thing," said a spokesman. In desperation, Spencer House last week set up a reservation system

We'll be here
til Christmas.



for those booking in advance. Surely it would be simpler to open the house more often? After all, its furniture was returned from the Victoria and Albert Museum on the basis that it would be "acces-

sible' to the public. One small problem: "During the week, the house has to be set aside for the banquet side of the business." At £10,000 a throw, that may not be quite what the V & A intended.

Question mark

Will the next general election see the first televised debate between all three party leaders? Peter Sissons has already put in his bid for a special edition of *Question Time*, bringing them together in open debate, something that has been a feature of American presidential elections for many years.

Opposition parties like the idea. Neil Kinnock's office says: "He debates with the prime minister in Parliament and would relish such an opportunity." Paddy Ashdown's office, with the most to gain and the least to lose, was also keen. But John Major's office remained coy about the Sissons idea. "We would have to consider it nearer the time. The prime minister would be interested in the idea being put to him."

The closest anyone can remember to getting three leaders together was when Roy Jenkins, Edward Heath and Jeremy Thorpe, dubbed "the Euro-pals", shared a platform during the Common Market referendum campaign. Not really close at all, for by then Heath was no longer party leader.

● The antique collector's worst nightmare came true at the weekend when a member of the public, deep in conversation at the Spink & Son stand at the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, accidentally knocked off its bronze stand. More than £50,000 of pottery smashed to the floor. Spink, as befits such a long-established gentlemanly firm, was stoical. "Luckily, we are insured. We are more concerned about the person who breaks something. They are always so upset."



ENRAGING THE BRITISH

Douglas Hurd deserves a medal. Nothing better illustrates the tactics of Jacques Delors in his tenure as president of the European Commission than his twist yesterday of the federalist screw and his impetuous stamping of his feet when Mr Hurd protested.

There was nothing new of substance in M Delors' ambush yesterday. But he knew that using the phrase "federal destiny" he would arouse the vision of a United States of Europe which was sure to enrage the British. He could play his old gambit, inciting a Thatcherite response and trumping it by presenting the British as fanatically opposed to anything to do with European union. Behind the furor, he could drum up support for his own pet schemes. Yesterday showed how much M Delors must be missing Margaret Thatcher.

There could be no crazier way of developing closer ties between European states than this chaotic procedure. M Delors knows that his treaties are likely to be deeply divisive, taking the EC far beyond, and some would say away from, the original ideal of a commercial union in the direction of a wholly new corporate state. His draft treaties would create a "nation" more dirigiste than the United States, closer in its tax and redistributive philosophy to that of Comecon.

The new political union treaty, cause of yesterday's eruption, makes the old social charter look tame. It offers a vision of a Brussels authority embracing not just monetary, tax and economic policy, but "living and working conditions", combating "social exclusion", ordering the environment, tourism, education, industry, law and order. Powers are sought to raise taxes, impose laws and organise regional subsidies. The member nations would take on the character and powers of an English local authority (after capping).

This is a bid for vast power on the part of well-meaning but only tenuously democratic bureaucratic adventurers in Brussels. The fear of being thought insufficiently "Euro-

pean" on the part of many British politicians is now playing into M Delors' hands. He knows that his own country, France, has no more intention than has Britain of delegating so great a sovereignty to a supranational body. Hence France's lack of enthusiasm for Germany's particular concern, that the EC has reached the point where new democratic institutions must be created as fast as bureaucratic ones.

M Delors' identification of the interest of the Brussels Commission with that of postwar pan-Europeanism remains astute. A generation of political leaders, mostly now middle-aged, has grown up identifying free trade and international liberalism with the European Commission and its lobbyists. M Delors is a deft operator. He has marshalled the nervous and insecure leaders of lesser European states, with promises of subsidies and other largess, usually directed at electorally sensitive regions of their home base. He has had his successes in Britain too. There have been pulchre consumers of his tactic at the Foreign Office, in the Labour party and in the British media.

One day M Delors will return to Paris, where he will pursue French nationalism with all the zeal of a de Gaulle, a Mitterrand and now a Mme Cresson. He will roar with laughter at how he almost forced "political union" down the throats of the credulous Spanish and Italians and Greeks, and he will reflect with quiet admiration on how it was only the wily British who saw through his bluff.

His departure from Brussels will see a diminution in the messianic zeal of the whitefriars of Berlaymont. They came close to recreating on a continental scale the corporatist paradise they failed to create in their home economies, a paradise largely conceived in the great administrative schools of Paris. But they will not have succeeded. And they will have to admit that M Delors, their champion for many years, badly overplayed his hand back in 1991. And Douglas Hurd was one of those who called his bluff.

MONOPOLY MONEY

John Major has recently said that his "first, second, and third" economic priorities were to defeat inflation. If this is so, then the government should be fighting its first, second, and third political battles against the privatised utility companies which are now adding more to Britain's inflation than the trade unions, Labour councils, and devaluationist economists of government demonology put together.

The problem is not in the alleged effect of the utility chairman's personal pay on the Treasury's incomes-policy by exhortation. A far more direct threat of inflation lies simply in the prices the utility monopolies charge their long-suffering customers. In the 12 months to May, the retail prices index increased by 5.8 per cent, but the RPI's water and sewerage component leapt by 17 per cent. Telephone costs, as measured in the RPI increased by 10 per cent and electricity prices rose by 10 per cent as well.

Gas was the only utility which kept its prices below the RPI, and then only marginally, with an increase of 5 per cent. Between them, these four utilities make up 6.3 per cent of the average family's spending, as monitored by the RPI — half as much as the cost of mortgages and poll tax combined.

Yet the exactions of these companies have nothing to do with the principle of privatisation. If water and electricity companies are charging excessive prices it is because they are monopolies, not because they have been transferred to the private sector. If they remained nationalised, their price increases might or might not be just as large, depending on the whims of the Treasury and their sponsoring departments.

The best way to deal with exorbitant utility prices is to promote competition. But where this is impossible, as in the supply of water, gas, power and telephone lines to residential customers, regulation is inevitable. The regulatory systems set up for

each of the utilities are fiendishly complex in detail. But in their essence they come down to three questions. How much additional capital investment will be required to keep providing the services demanded by consumers? What are the profits required to accumulate or service this capital? What is the minimum level of prices needed to make these profits, assuming that the company is operating as efficiently as possible?

The market can help with the last two questions. If there are several companies in the same business, as in the case of the regional electricity distribution and water companies, permitted prices can be based on the costs of the most efficient operator. Maximum rates of return can be observed from the stock market, and operators which fail to achieve these profits by charging the most efficient company's prices may then suffer normal market penalties such as takeover. Because the government failed to break up British Telecom and British Gas before privatisation, such "yardstick" competition is harder to apply. But the option of breakup is still there.

However, the more intractable problems relate to long-term investment. Most of the price increases being levied by the utilities are going to be spent on financing investment programmes. In many cases, especially in the water industry, these are needed to compensate for decades of Treasury-imposed neglect in the public sector.

The regulators face a difficult task in balancing the utilities' genuine needs for long-term investment against the interests of today's consumers and the self-aggrandising instincts of their newly liberated managers. They are bound to be better than the Treasury. But their long-term judgment on these matters will only be trusted if they can prove that they are in no way the catspaws of the monopolies they exist to control.

SIT VAC AT THE UN

Margaret Thatcher's bravura last speech in the Commons as prime minister was interrupted by a one-liner from Dennis Skinner: she might, he suggested, end up governor of the European central bank. She joined the laughter, recovered breath and shot back: "What a good idea!" At first sight, the idea of Mrs Thatcher as the next secretary-general of the United Nations might seem even more far-fetched.

Yet the proposition keeps surfacing in UN corridors and the American press, support echoed as far afield as Egypt. The UN is in need of just such an audacious departure from uninspired precedent if it is to win back respect rather than routine lip-service.

Mrs Thatcher's temperament could not contrast more strongly with that of the present incumbent, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, of whom it has been said that "he would not make waves if he fell out of a boat". Abrasive, impatient of fools and loath to compromise her principles, Mrs Thatcher could make a boat capsize by sitting still. That is not a disqualification. As to the unwritten convention that no national of the five permanent members be appointed, it is a hangover from cold war necessities and may well be buried with it.

If the sixth UN secretary-general is not to be as greyly undistinguished as all but Dag Hammarskjöld have been, the permanent five must do better this time than to select the candidate least likely to provide leadership. Here is the moment for John Major to echo her words and declare: what a good idea! If not, he should have a better one.

The qualities required of the next secretary-general are as obvious as they have tended to be absent in the past: political weight, eloquence, integrity and independence, and outstanding management skills. The field is open. The job falls vacant on January 1 but the UN Security Council, which is due to decide by October what candidate to present to the UN general assembly, has not begun the search. Such inattention shows how far the UN, for all the plaudits heaped on it during the Gulf war, is from being taken seriously.

The Africans want one of their number elected, on the "Buggins" turn" principle, but cannot agree who it should be. A dozen others have their hats in the ring but none, with the possible exception of the international arch-conciliator, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, has the energy, experience and administrative capacity required to drag the UN into the 21st century. The UN is a management disaster, its bureaucracy proof against reason, most of its "development" programmes a pointless accumulation of unread files. Nothing but unyielding radicalism will cut through such forests of dead wood.

The UN needs a fighter for individual rights, political and economic freedoms, the rule of law, things the UN was created to promote. After 46 years of invisible men, it is time for an outspoken politician to head the UN. If, as is likely, Mrs Thatcher is a non-runner, then somebody near to her stature must be found, and quickly.

Japan and UK: a contrast in futures

From Mr Dennis Coward

Sir, "How long can Tokyo look towards and ignore the resentment of its trading partners?", asks Joanna Pitman ("Japan's inferiority complex", June 11). The answer must be: for as long as Japan's leaders can ignore the kind of advice she proffers to internationalise themselves.

A small island nation, deservingly and comprehensively thrashed by the Allies in World War 2 — the only country, so far, to experience the full horror of a nuclear attack — Japan has achieved superpower status by retaining many of the "insular" qualities that we have been persuaded to throw away.

They have worked just as hard at restoring their patriotic pride (without which a nation state cannot thrive) as at destroying ours. They actually teach "Japaneseness" (*Nihonjainron*) in their schools with the same enthusiasm that our schools and universities and our broadcast media deride the quaint notion of British sovereignty.

They reject out of hand the demands by American black power leaders that they should be moving towards a multi-cultural, multi-racial society. That is not the Japanese way. They prefer to export the work to the third-world labour force, rather than import the labour force to form dissident pressure groups inside Japan.

Shintaro Ishihara's *The Japan That Can Definitely Say No* (report, May 26) strikes a refreshing note of absolute clarity. We once had a leader who thought at destroying ours. They actually teach "Japaneseness" (*Nihonjainron*) in their schools with the same enthusiasm that our schools and universities and our broadcast media deride the quaint notion of British sovereignty.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

KGB files on Hess flight to Scotland

From Mr John Castello

Sir, It is surprising that James Douglas-Hamilton ("Hess and the unanswered truth", June 15) can be so certain that the KGB files on Hess are *ipso facto* lies after so much new evidence that has come to light in the 20 years since he researched his book. Simply because MI6 has never admitted concealing letters to Hess on his father's behalf does not prove that the chief of the Czech Military Intelligence Service, Colonel Frantisek Moravetz, was lying to the Soviets.

The reliability of the Duke of Hamilton's own account, especially his repeated denials never to have met or recognised Hess, is contradicted by contemporary reports in *The Times* and the "Chips" Channon diaries that have Lord Clydesdale (as he then was) lunching with Hess at the Berlin Olympics in 1936 as a Conservative MP and member of the pro-Nazi Anglo-German Fellowship.

As for Hitler's "official" surprise on learning that Hess had landed in Scotland, key members of the Berghof entourage on May 11, 1941, later testified that his anger was feigned. The KGB archive now provides corroboration in the declassified cryptograms of six highly placed Soviet penetration agents in Germany, all reporting that the Führer had indeed secretly authorized the Hess peace mission.

I am also concerned that, in a note appended to your report of June 10, your Moscow correspondent suggests that the reason why the Soviets may have fed the KGB's Hess papers to *The New York Times* could be that they were "not satisfied with the modest interest" in the account which they had "placed" in a Soviet daily paper last year. This is not correct.

No actual KGB files were released last year. They were published for the first time in Britain in May 1991, in my book, *Ten Days that Saved the West*. I first showed the original copies to *The New York Times* two months ago, on April 18.

On June 16, 1990, after an article about Philby's involvement in the Hess affair had appeared in the Soviet trade union newspaper *Trud*, I wrote to the KGB asking for documentary evidence. Already in my possession was a report of a briefing given by Churchill's intelligence aide, Major Desmond Morton, to the US military attaché in London. Obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, it confirmed the Soviet claim that Hess

did warn the British of Hitler's impending attack on Russia.

The KGB responded on November 26, 1990, with copies of the relevant pages of their Hess file, including those of Philby's cryptograms. As the recipient of the first recorded declassification of historic documentation from the KGB archives, I naturally consulted intelligence veterans and experts in Washington, who advised examining the original dossier and providing more detailed proof by filming as many pages as possible.

At my own expense I visited KGB headquarters in Moscow in February, where I received unprecedented permission to hire a professional TV crew to film bound-up files bearing KGB archive numbers. These included the Hess "Black Bertha" dossier and the "Assistent" file, showing how Moravetz, a trusted confidant of MI6, had reported in October 1942 having seen the letters allegedly written on the Duke's behalf that lured Hess over to Scotland.

Experts who have studied the film and the copies have concluded that these files are genuine and historic. Apart from the problems associated with forging hundreds of pages of documentation to tie in with unreleased American files, it is thought unlikely that KGB would risk damaging its new-found quest for respectability by engineering a monumental fraud — especially one that could be exposed by the British government's release of the full Hess interrogation records.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CASTELLO,
2 Lincoln Square,
New York, NY 10012, USA.
June 15.

From Councillor John Blackman

Sir, The flight of Rudolf Hess to this country in 1941 began hope that the conflict would then soon be over. Alas, it was not to be. Great numbers of those who had hoped for so much never lived to learn the full story. Eventually, when the truth is told, there will be few left who participated in the war to learn it.

It is disgraceful that the facts should be withheld. Every MP regardless of politics should clamour for this suppression to be lifted. There is no reason at all why the truth should not be revealed. It is owed to us.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BLACKMAN,
Priorscroft, 1 Salden Drive,
Salden, Brighton, Sussex.
June 11.

(Rheinmetall-Royal Ordnance plc, Leeds).

The Krauss-Maffei production concept provides also for the final assembly of the tank to be undertaken by Vickers Defence Systems in Leeds (as well as such essential components as armoured steel housings for chassis and turret). This work represents several thousand working hours per tank.

Unfortunately Vickers have never responded to our various approaches. Although such non-cooperation is understandable for the competition itself, we nevertheless wish to keep our offer of co-operation open.

We believe such collaboration would allow the British government to acquire the best possible equipment in terms of maturity and interoperability for the British Army — without jeopardising British jobs. At the same time we believe that co-operation between the British defence industry and the German tank industry would establish a sound European industrial base for the future replacement of equipment for the armies of NATO forces.

Sincerely yours,
W. NÜRNBERGER,
Managing Director,
Krauss-Maffei Wehrtechnik GmbH,
Krauss-Maffei Strasse 2,
Postfach 500340,
8000 Munich 15, Germany.
June 17.

Tass and the lobby

From Mr Dmitri Voskoboinikov

Sir, Your Diary today suggests, incorrectly, that I broke lobby rules by naming a Labour MP who had been rude about Gorbachev. The MP to whom I referred was Bernie Grant and the statement in question was made during an "on the record" interview which took place outside the lobby and was recorded on tape. That is why I was able to name him.

Yours sincerely,
DMITRI VOSKOBONIKOV
(London correspondent).

Initial changes

From Mr S. P. Rouse

Sir, You announce (leading article, June 12) that "the arts lobby is known in government circles as second only to the universities for the deceit count of its whinges".

Whinge, of course, an acronym. In universities it stands for: We Have Increased Numbers (of) Graduates Enthusiastically and Why Have Incomes Not Grown Equally?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN P. ROUSE
(Head of salaries and industrial relations),
Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom,
29 Tavistock Square, WC1.
June 14.

Cheques at risk

From Mr Donald Kerr

Sir, Mrs June Blane (June 13) raises an important and legally complex point when she writes about cheques stolen in the post. It is a point to which the banking ombudsman drew particular attention in his 1990 report.

A cheque is stolen, perhaps altered and then negotiated, often through a building society or a shop; it is then paid by the drawer's bank and it may be some time before it is realised that it is missing. The unfortunate drawer suffers the double loss of having had the money paid from his account and still being liable on the original debt.

The various crossings such as "not negotiable" do not afford the protection which they are popularly supposed to do and it is certain that both the paying bank and the collecting bank will vigorously resist any attempt to make them liable. The drawer of the cheque will then find himself faced with the prospect of technically difficult and highly

expensive litigation to try to get his money back from the banks.

To meet this problem the banking ombudsman has suggested that cheques be crossed "not transferable" and the inland Revenue have sensibly taken up the suggestion in the leaflet to which Mrs Blane refers. Unfortunately, the suggestion clashes with established banking practice. As long ago as 1958 the UK banks agreed that the issue of non-transferable cheques should be "strongly discouraged". At least one bank tells me that their policy is not to permit the issue of non-transferable cheques by their customers as it imposes an unacceptable risk on them as paying bankers.

What is now urgently needed is a statement by the banks about non-transferable cheques in response to the recommendations of the banking ombudsman supported by the Inland Revenue.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD KERR,
23 Downs Road,
Epsom, Surrey.
June 14.

Zoos in cities

From Mr Nicholas Gould

Sir, Comments on the present crisis between London Zoo, from both government spokesmen and the media, have repeatedly included the assertion that the day of the city-centre zoo is past. This may be the case; but if so, it is curious that the fact is recognised nowhere else but in the United Kingdom.

Looking no further than our fellow-members of the EC, there are major zoos in, among others, Dublin, Paris, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Rome, Naples, and most of the principal cities of Germany. (It is worth adding that nearly all these institutions receive regular financial help from their local or national governments.) To my knowledge at least 44 of the world's 50 largest cities have zoos of some kind.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOULD (Editor),
International Zoo News,
Flint Cottage, Roundstone Lane,
Amgertown, West Sussex.

Splitting curriculum

From Mr Rex Walford

Sir, One partial solution to the problem of "unqualified" science teachers (report, June 11) lies close at hand. The science national curriculum at present encompasses material on "earth and environment" usually taught in the past by teachers of other subjects. It is paralleled to a large extent by material in the geography national curriculum.

If this material was devolved to geography teachers, most of whom are well-qualified by their training and quite willing to teach it, the problem would be lessened. A corresponding donation of time (from the large 20 per cent slice notionally allocated to science) would also, of course, be welcome.

Yours sincerely,
REX WALFORD (Chairman,
Council of British Geography),
As from: University of Cambridge,
Department of Education,
17 Trumpington Street, Cambridge.
June 13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Credit lines

From Mr David Freedman

Sir, There may well be no collusion between the clearing banks on interest rates, as their chairman have been at pains to make clear, but the attention given to interest rates has obscured the more critical issue of the banks' willingness to lend or to extend lines of credit in the first place.

Often, the only terms under which the banks are prepared to help involve joint and several personal guarantees from the company's directors and a charge over the debtors' book, irrespective of other evidence of the directors' commitment to the business through personal sacrifices, or the company's historical performance.

When banks are more interested in attracting borrowers for home purchasing (an activity which adds nothing to the wealth of the nation and often does much to impoverish over-stretched individuals) than in offering even minimal assistance to small, but promising companies, what hope is there for our economy?

Yours sincerely,
D. FREEDMAN,
The Business Works Ltd,
14 Blacklands Terrace, SW3.
June 13.

Charities under fire

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, The debate continues in your columns about charities and political activity (May 22, 27, June 1, 4). Case law enables charities to engage in political activities as long as these are in pursuit of the charity's objects and on behalf of their beneficiaries. As the Charity Commission stated in its enquiry into Oxfam (report, May 10):

It is not the intention of the law, nor the business of the courts and the Charity Commission, to stanch the contribution of charities to public life. Charity trustees may bring their experience to bear when it is relevant to reflect the interests of their beneficiaries wherever those interests may be affected.

The government, in its white paper *Charities: a framework for the future*, reached a similar conclusion (report, May 17, 1989). However, the Charity Commission enquiry has shown the

difficulties for charities, particularly those working overseas, in interpreting the case law and the precise boundaries within which they can work legitimately.

The commission has the difficult job of distinguishing between political activity which is legitimate, and that which is not legitimate, under the law in individual cases. Unlike Mr Harris (June 1), we believe that they have adequate powers and have shown that they are prepared to use them.

Charities should not be aligned to political parties or active in party politics. They should present their cases in a reasoned and balanced way. However, democracy and public life would be the poorer without their contribution to public debate and policy-making.

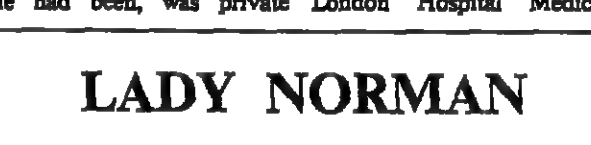
Yours sincerely,
USHA PRASHAR, Director,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.
June 6.



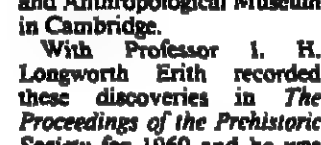
Nature

notes

M Government
Hon Alan Clark, Minister
State for Defence Procure-
ment, was host at a luncheon
given by Her Majesty's Govern-
ment yesterday at Lancaster
House in honour of Professor
Sharuddin Jusuf Habibie.
Indonesian Minister for Re-
search and Technology.



Doreen, and two daughters.



Appoint the F

1908. Educated at Clifton, Erith worked in the City for some years before acquiring his farm at Ardleigh, Essex, in 1937. He wrote a book, *Ardleigh in 1796* (1977) which described preparations for a possible Napoleonic invasion through the eyes of the local vicar of the time who left papers about it.

He leaves his widow, Bar-

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Indonesian Minister for Re-
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yerman, accompanied by Mr
 Joseph and Sheriff and Mr
 Christopher Walford, attended
 1991 City Churches Week
 musical service held yesterday
 at St Mary-le-Bow. The Dean of
 St Paul's preached the sermon.
 Rev Victor Stock read the
 opening prayer and Prebendary
 Ian Turner pronounced the
 blessing.

Saturday, May 25, at St James's
 Church, Chawleigh, Devon.
 between Ian Murray John
 younger son of the late Mr D.K.
 Murray John and of Mrs E.A.
 Murray John, of Winchester,
 Hampshire, and Catherine,
 youngest daughter of Mr A.S.
 Fotheringham, of London, and
 Mrs A.M. Fotheringham, of
 Chawleigh, Devon.

The Rev John M Lewis, Team Vicar, Emmanuel, Weston-super-Mare (Bath and Wells): to be Diocesan Children's Adviser (Norwich).

The Rev Kevin J Morris, Assistant Curate, St Margaret, Roath (Llandaff): to be Assistant Curate, St Alban, Holborn (London).

The Rev J Gareth Miller, Team Rector, Melbury (Salisbury): to be Westminster Priory, All Saints (Coventry).

The Rev David Power, Vicar, Hart Plain, to be Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism (Diocesan Co-ordinator of the Decade of Evangelism) (Porthmouth).

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Stephen Cox, Assistant Secretary for International Relations at the Royal Society, to be Director-General of the Commonwealth Institute, on October 1, in succession to Mr James Porter, who is retiring.

Music Scholarships: Philloea Perry, St. Joseph's Convent. Reading: Peter Williams. The Pilgrims' School.
Art Scholarships: Felix Dool, Ripley Court; Alexander Weston, Shrewsbury House School.
Guthbert Heath Scholarships: Benjamin Mason, Brockhurst.

Lincoln's Inn

Mr David John Cocks, QC, has been elected a bencher of Lincoln's Inn.



YELLOW WAGTAIL

With its purple-spotted stems, and the coarser hogweed. Ragwort is common in damp places; though a handsome pink colour, its flowers look even more tattered and dismal in this summer. In some parts of southern England, marshes are produced from the continent and flourishing; they have a loud croak, rather like harsh quack, which they deliver as much as day as by night.

DJM

...the following guests present were:

...of the University of Hull (The Chan-
... Sir Isaiah Berlin, OBE, and
... by Berlin, the Institute of Oxford and
... to the University of Hull, and
... Mr Gerald Carroll, Lord Flaw-
... Lord Justice Goff, Sir Edmund
... Lady Mary, Sir Anthony and Lady
... Lord Mayor of Oxford, Lady
... Mrs Williams and Lord
...ation.

Luncheon

... Government

... Mr Alan Clark, Minister
... State for Defence Procure-
... was host at a luncheon
... by Her Majesty's Govern-
... ment yesterday at Lancaster
... in honour of Professor
... Jusef Habibie.
... Indonesian Minister for Re-
... search and Technology.

John Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Hyman, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen der.

City Churches
Week

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs Christopher Walford, attended the 1991 City Churches Week inaugural service held yesterday at St Mary-le-Bow. The Dean of St Paul's preached the sermon. The Rev Victor Stock read the opening prayer and Prebendary Ian Turner pronounced the blessing.

Berkshire, and Maundy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Hartley, of Copthorne, West Sussex.

Marriage

Mr I.R. Murray John and Miss C.M. Fotheringham The marriage took place on Saturday, May 25, at St James's Church, Chawleigh, Devon, between Ian Murray John, youngest son of the late Mr D.K. Murray John and of Mrs E.A. Murray John, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Catherine, youngest daughter of Mr A.S. Fotheringham, of London, and Mrs A.M. Fotheringham, of Chawleigh, Devon.

[illegible]

Bovington was dedicated in the Garrison Church of St George the Martyr on Sunday, June 16, by Mgr J. Mallon. VG. Those present included:

General Sir John and Lady Sibson, Lady Compton, E. Barrow, and Mrs P. Giblin, Brigadier General and Mrs K. Lawton and Miss K. Gerdino.

Appointments

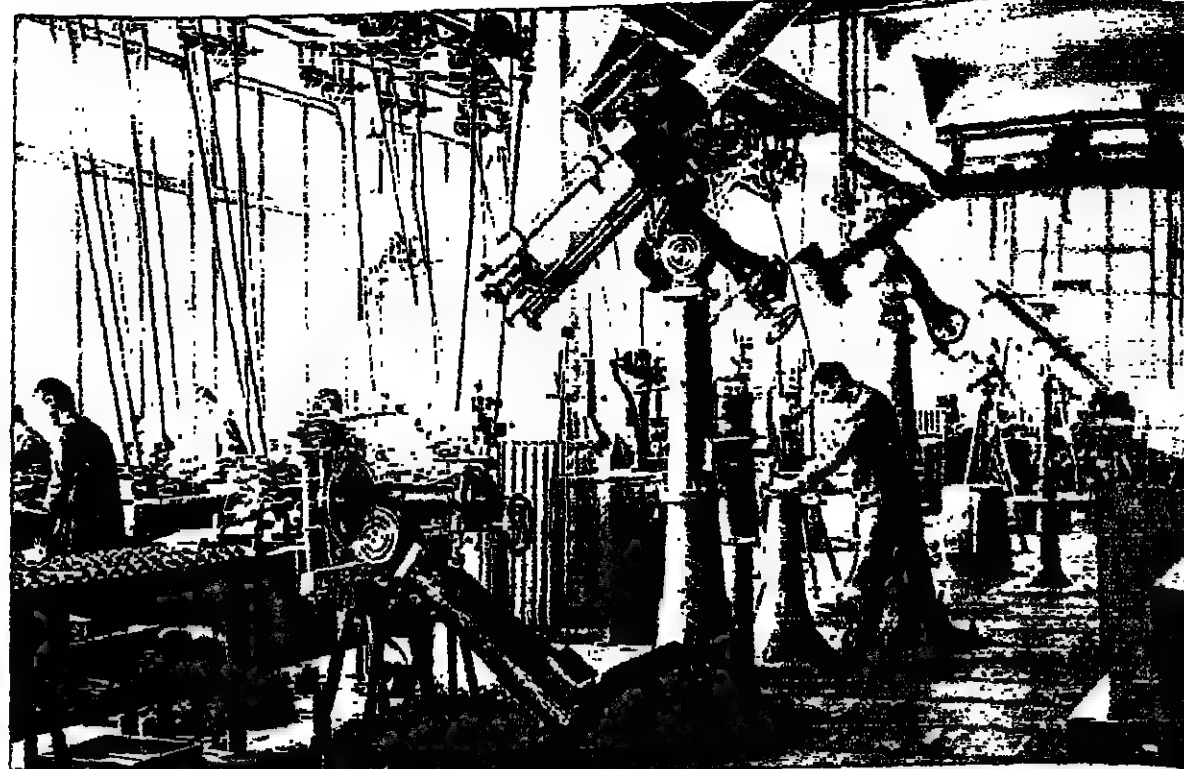
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[illegible]

Lincoln's Inn, from June 13.

When shutters close for good



All their own work: a workshop in the Carl Zeiss factory at Jena, East Germany, at the beginning of the century

TELEVISION
Horizon
BBC 2

IN THE science of genetics, there is a technique known as "twin studies". Take a pair of twins who have been reared apart, and deduce how much of their intelligence is the result of their environment. Last night's *Horizon* (BBC 2) was the story of a German optics manufacturing company — Carl Zeiss — that was effectively split in half in 1945, with one company on each side of the Iron Curtain. Developing separately (but along very similar lines), they have now suddenly been brought together. German reunification has placed them both in the same market-place. The result is that the high-achieving prodigy in East Germany, Carl Zeiss Jena, looks set to go out of business. Which proves, if nothing else, that brains are not everything.

The rearing of Carl Zeiss Jena was a strange, but rather beautiful one. With 30,000 employees, the company gave employment to a whole region. Shots of the factory showed women sitting in pleasant natural light, handling lenses and mounting them in microscopes by hand. The company's global reputation rested on its powerful aerial cameras, and its planetarium projection lenses — thus, ironically, providing the means for other people to see the world and the stars, while they themselves were not allowed to see beyond a short wall running through the centre of Berlin.

Working in enforced isolation from Western technology, and under the bizarre constraints of the planned economy, the scientists at Carl Zeiss Jena were obliged to re-invent the wheel, all day and every day. If they

needed a computer, they had to make it themselves; they even had to manufacture their own screws. It was a terrible waste of time, of course, but it seems to have conferred a "wild" earned pride in their achievements. You could envisage special labels being pasted on their products: "All our own work."

Horizon interviewed a couple of disgruntled scientists, who complained that things had certainly been ludicrous in the Iron Curtain days. One of their bosses, for example, had been appointed, not for any scientific expertise, but because he was an

Olympic pole-vaulter (imagine him arriving for work each day, taking a running jump over the factory gates and landing in a little pile of sand). But things were not better now: they were desperate. With reunification, Carl Zeiss Jena had lost its customers in the Eastern bloc, while any hopes of brotherly aid from the West German twin had foundered immediately on sibling incompatibility.

"What we are experiencing isn't what we expected," said one of the scientists, with mastery understatement. The story of Carl Zeiss Jena, symbol of East European technologi-

cal pride, looked suspiciously like a microcosm for the general heart-breaking disappointments of reunification. Come into the market-place, my dear brother, but don't expect to sell anything.

"They were too big a mouthful," said the boss of the twin, Carl Zeiss Oberkochen — referring to the 30,000 Jena employees who might have looked slightly out of place rubbing shoulders with the robots running his own plant. Too big a mouthful? Now there is a telling phrase.

LYNNE TRUSS

NEW RELEASES

CIRCUS BOYS: Patrick Jamison's adventures of two circus boys, described as a "boy's own story", though a little prosaic. Director, Kazuo Hayashi. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE (U): Spirited parody through Michel Peyrache's memoirs — classic, nostalgic, but excessively warm-hearted. With Philippe Caubère, director. Yves Boisset. Lantana (01-930 0891).

A VOSS BEFORE DYING (18): Cold, but version of his Levin's novel about a murderous youth (Matti Oksanen) ruthlessly pursuing the American dream. With Sean Young, director, Jamil Dearden. Cannon: Baker Street (01-930 8773) Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Enigma (01-437 9555) Whiteleys (01-792 3333/3324).

STATE OF GRACE (18): Overblown tale of undercover cop Sean Penn on the heels of a hitman in New York's Hell's Kitchen. Gary Oldman, Ed Harris, director. PFA Cinema. Cannon: Parker Street (01-430 0021) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140).

CURRENT

CITIZEN KANE (U): With the entrancing examination of the American Dream. Charles La Morte, Joseph Cotton. PFA Cinema (01-437 9555).

LE COQ (2): Philippe Noiret and a wild Patachon setting some charm to the further adventures of two rogues. Claude Zidi. Cannon: Chertsey (01-352 5258) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Olivier Deshayes' portrait of a handsome, long-nosed Cyrano, director Jean-Pierre Rappenoire. Cannon: Pinner (01-352 5251) Pinner (01-352 4070) Renoir (01-437 9402).

ANITA ON ANIMALS (U): Anita's adventures in the animal world. Anita, director. Anita. Pinner (01-352 5251) Pinner (01-352 4070) Renoir (01-437 9402).

LE COQ (2): Philippe Noiret and a wild Patachon setting some charm to the further adventures of two rogues. Claude Zidi. Cannon: Chertsey (01-352 5258) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140).

ALL FOR LOVE (D): Anthony and Christine's third-episode James Laurence but a nostalgic. Cannon: Pinner (01-352 5251) Pinner (01-352 4070) Renoir (01-437 9402).

BILLIE LEMMON'S HILLS: Seven adults play children in first-class version of Charles Fawcett's novel. Man in the Moon. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

GAMES, JAMES: Charles Fawcett's novel. Man in the Moon. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

COPS: Ben Braden's no-holds-barred, no-censorship staging of police life on the Lower East Side. Greenwich. Cops. 321-10 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

DANCING AT LUGHANNA: Brian Friel's award-winning play. Phoenix. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

DICKENS' WOMEN: Spurred, a tale of the lives of the women and the play by the playwrights by Michael Frayn. Phoenix. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER: Simon Cadell in average, French-boulevard style. Phoenix. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason

CINEMA GUIDE

GOFF BROWN'S assessment of films in London and elsewhere. Indicated with the symbol (U) on release across the country.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (18): Kevin Costner as the Civil War Red Indian who leads the Sioux's way of life. Winner of seven Oscars. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

THE DOORS (18): Oliver Stone's re-making of the Doors singer Jim Morrison. Director, Oliver Stone. Cannon: Oxford Street (01-436 6140) Pinner (01-352 5251) Whiteleys (01-792 3333/3324).

GUILTY BY SUSPICION (18): Hollywood with a twist — murder as drama, but deceptively subtle. Robert De Niro, Annette Bening, director, Irwin Winkler. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

THE HAIRRESSER'S HUSBAND (18): A son-in-law of romantic obsession, masterfully told by the director of *Barry Lyndon*. Peter Jackson. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

HAMLET (U): Mel Gibson as the moody Prince — a decent, lively performance but lacking boldness. Director, Michael Alford. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

JULIE ET JIM (PG): Julie's adventures in the animal world. Anita, director. Anita. Pinner (01-352 5251) Pinner (01-352 4070) Renoir (01-437 9402).

WHITE PALACE (18): Boris Yeltsin as the Russian president. Director, Yuri Yezhov. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

SALOMÉ (18): Boris Yeltsin as the Russian president. Director, Yuri Yezhov. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

SAME OLD MOON: With the director of *Barry Lyndon*. Peter Jackson. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

THE KING AND I: With the director of *Barry Lyndon*. Peter Jackson. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

LET THEM CALL IT JAZZ: Pauline Black in Jean-Pierre Rappenoire's film. Man in the Moon. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

MATADOR: The rise of The Boy from Nowhere, great dancing and sets. Man in the Moon. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

THE PHILANTHROPIST: Captivating performance by Edward Fox in Christopher Hampton's comedy. Phoenix. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

THE PLOUGH AND THE WHEEL: A tale of the lives of the women and the play by the playwrights by Michael Frayn. Phoenix. 322 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 8878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. 15mins.

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LA STORY (18): Steve Martin's weatherman finds true love in wacky Los Angeles. Whiffnaght farce comedy that just missed the mark. With Victoria Beckham, director, Michael Jackson. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

MISERY (18): Oscar-winning Kathy Bates as the number one fan-tomorrowing a best-selling novelist (James Caan). Spiritually thriller from Stephen King's novel. Director, Rob Reiner. Cannon: Parker Street (01-430 0021) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

ROSENKRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD (PG): Tom Stoppard's dark comedy about the two minor characters in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Director, Tom Stoppard. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (18): Jodie Foster's FBI trainee confronts Anthony Hopkins, an inhumanly intelligent, highly polished, and manipulative serial killer. Director, Jonathan Demme. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

THESE FOOLISH THINGS (PG): Richard Dreyfuss's comedy about a dying father (Dale Gribble) tended by his daughter (Jane Fonda). Somewhat arch, but tender. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 6140) Plaza (01-437 9555) Warner (01-436 0791).

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CONCERT
Philharmonia/Flor
Festival Hall

THE double-bassoon was there, sporting with Levanthian, the flute fluttering with the winged tribes. But this *Creation* was neither fish nor fowl. Despite the loving detail of the performance, and despite its fine trio of singers, Claus Peter Flor and the Philharmonia failed to make us wonder anew at Haydn's great oratorio or at the *Wunderwerk* it describes.

Recent recordings have painstakingly charted the varying forces used or specified by Haydn in the work's earliest performances. There were enough discrepancies, depending on the personnel available and on the occasion, to prevent any smug or dogmatic attempts at authenticity 200 years on. The work continues to reveal itself as much as the radiance of the baton of a von Karajan.

Neither does *The Creation* work only at opposite extremes of the resource spectrum. But a sense of balance is vital, and a clarity of decision making. On Sunday, the Philharmonia was slumped down to some 50 players; yet the Chorus spread wide what seemed to be its full

complement. Short, hard drumsticks were used; yet the woodwind was romantically fulsome and vocal ornamentation was almost non-existent.

An air of compromise, which could still have yielded a performance of musical excitement, sadly crept into the music-making itself. In order, perhaps, to scale down to the orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorus produced only a 40-watt "Licht", and its subsequent series of joy and affirmation seemed strangely subdued. Expressive nuance at pianissimo was not matched by power at crescendo, and the result seemed at times somewhat precious.

Neither was there unanimity of response among the soloists. The Swedish soprano, Hillevi Martinpelto, was an example for every performer: total poise, yet constantly variegated tone and inflection awoke her words to new life. When her "Gott sprach", it was reported with a warm breath of wonder; when she turned from Gabriel to Eve she rediscovered the rapture of a true first lady.

Robert Hayward, by contrast, was unrelentingly sturdy and statuesque as both archangelic narrator and as Adam, while Thomas Randle's sweetly lyrical Uriel made up excitement and verbal resonance for every other voice on stage.

HILARY FINCH

RADIO
James Joyce —
A Celebration
Radio 2

THE first ritual celebration of "Bloomsday", James Joyce's original date with Nora Barnacle, took place on the half-centenary of June 16, 1954. That inaugural party was a small group of like-minded adults seeking truth in Old Bushmills. Too photographs of the day survive; so too does appalling footage of Brian O'Nolan (aka Flann O'Brien aka Myles na Gopaleen) proclaiming his own genius with heroic attempts at coherence. At this remove one gathers that while Dubliners regarded the al-

cobolism as par for the course, such filth and blasphemy as *Ulysses* was not to be tolerated. In the interim the dread spectre of Cultureman has annexed the celebrations in the form of an annual touristic knees-up devoted to a novel written by a self-proclaimed exile, which few there can have read. Having once known it to be beyond the pale (a local term), they have lately divined that here be money, punts from punters. Send for the plaques, the Homeric municipal dubstins, the Stephen Dedalus T-shirts. Dermot O'Connell rides again.

RTÉ's 29-hour reading of *Ulysses* found its modest British counterpart in *James Joyce — A Celebration* (Radio 2, Sunday) in which Frank Delaney, Ireland's Donald Sinden, cast a twinkling eye on the difference between the folk song "Finnegan's Wake" and the novel *Finnegans*

THEATRE
When the Kissing Stopped
Attic, Wimbledon

THE season of plays at this small venue behind Wimbledon Theatre began with a crazy funny Beth Henley play, *The Lucky Spot*, but reaches a dismal end with this inert comedy by Brian Jeffries. Though not his first play, it bears many signs of a prentice work, notably the rudimentary skill at manoeuvring characters on and off the stage. Since the entire action takes place in the bedroom of a suburban fancy-dress shop during working hours, the author can rid himself of someone any time he wants by making him or her cock an ear in the general direction of the bed curtain and say: "Someone in the shop." This allows those left on the stage to confide in each other but before anything significant happens back comes the absent one, saying something like: "They've gone, and what have you two been doing, I'd like to know!"

The setting of costumes hung on racks and fancy hats piled up on shelves gives the eye something to stare at when Colin Starkey is on stage. He plays Mory, part-owner of the shop and an infinitely trying character: compulsively punning and

transparently mendacious. For the sake of the plot, however, his assistant (Candida Kundle) must go on believing he can help her become a model, and his trusting partner Brenda (Rosemary Leach) cannot bring herself to upbraid him for wasting her money at the (ho ho) Winkle Club.

All too soon it becomes clear that the costumes do not just serve as distraction from an ogle performance by Starkey; they are a symbol. Mory dresses up in them, and makes Brenda do the same. They go through some famous chat as Twenties socialites or Wild West pioneers. "These aren't games," he declares, "they're dreams!" He has difficulty with reality, you see. He can make love to a customer's wife when he puts on a gorilla skin, or dresses up as a plumber, but as himself... ah, but who is he behind the comic masks? Who cares?

Leach shows an appealing tenderness and looks fetchingly dumpy in her red Tooties beads and ostrich feathers. Dragged into playing a kissergram girl at short notice, she catches the eye of Terence Longdon, whose face has now become marvellously craggy, like some senior member of a Gladstone cabinet. The performances of Leach and Longdon are streets ahead of this wretched play, which is directed by Jenny Lee.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Wake. The former was energetically brayed by The Dubliners, the latter was briskly anatomised by Dr David Norris, a man equipped with a parodic Protestant Ascendancy voice like someone fluting down the wrong end of a trumpet. "I've been to the University of Buffalo," confessed Norris, and one knew at once that one was in the presence of a squirrel-scholar and his bottomless bag of nuts. Still, this was perhaps the first occasion on which one of the novel's 100-letter thunderwords has been recited on BBC radio; while the news that sentences from the book are currently being employed by rap "artists" in South America was, in its way, priceless.

Anyone actually interested in literature, however, would have been better served by a rehearsal of the incest motive whence derives *Finnegans*

Wake's endless riddling. Even today, incest may be too strong for Bord Failte and the mandarins of Radio 2, but its absence exemplifies a larger problem. If you reduce Joyce to a street-corner song-and-dance man — a bit of a lad in his time, a rakish uncle now safely dead — you emasculate the art. The point of Joyce consistently missed by glib "celebrations" of this nature is that he transmuted the dross of the quotidian like no one since Shakespeare. And however much his ballads he crooned with John McCormack, however much his greatest works are informed by musicality, what he achieved was words on paper. He lives not in Edwardian kitsch but in books.

MARTIN CROPPER

Arts features, page 13

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

PIRAGUA
(c) A long narrow canoe hollowed from the trunk of a single tree and used by the Robinson Crusoe. "To make myself a canoe or piragua."

FACUNDITY
(c) Eloquence, from the Latin *facundus* to express oneself fluently, having the gift of the gab. "Mercury begets eloquence, facundity, and eloquence of speech."

NAPIFORM
(c) Having the form, shape or appearance of a napkin. From the Latin *napa* a napkin + *forma*: "The *Telescopium* is a very remarkable body, when fully formed it is napiform."

INDULINE
(a) A general name for a series of compounds related to aniline, yielding blue-black, blue, and greyish dyes, from *Indo* + the diminutive *-ine*. "Induline is a term applied to all coloured compounds formed by the action of amidoazo compounds on the hydrochlorides of aromatic amines with elimination of ammonia."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

PIRAGUA

FACUNDITY

NAPIFORM

INDULINE

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Answers from page 20

PIRAGUA

FACUNDITY

NAPIFORM

INDULINE

BBC 1

6.00 **Cee-fax** 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**
 9.05 **Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club** (t) 5.30 **Travel Show**
 Guides. Penny Junor and Matthew Collings with details of the holiday attractions of the Los Angeles and San Diego region (t). (Cee-fax)
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather 10.05 **Playdays** 10.25 **Bunty**
 (t) 10.35 **Handbags**, music quiz game show (t)
 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **High Chaparral**, Classic Western series starring Cameron Mitchell and Linda Cristal (t) 11.55 **Reviving Antiques**, John Fitzmaurice Mills offers advice on how to clean mother of pearl and mend cane chairs (t)
 12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **Scene Again**, Scene Today showbusiness highlights with Judi Sifers 12.25 **Hooked**
 On Scotland, Paul Young, actor and champion angler, travels to a wintry Orkney to demonstrate fishing for sea trout and grise 12.55 **Regional News** and weather
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather 1.30 **Neighbours**, (Cee-fax)
 1.50 **Royal Ascot**, Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.45 races. The 4.20 race is covered on BBC2. Northern Ireland: Open House 2.30 **Royal Ascot**
 4.00 **Betty Boop Double Bill** (t) 4.10 **Happy Families**, Episode one (t) 4.25 **The Further Adventures of SuperTed** (t) 4.35 **Dungeons and Dragons**, Fantasy cartoon series (t)
 5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **The Active-8**, This week's edition of the leisure and sport features karate, orienteering in the Lake District and Tchoukball. (Cee-fax)
 5.35 **Neighbours** (t). (Cee-fax), Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 **Inside Lifford**
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather 6.30 **Regional News** magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Bread**, Carla Lane's toast to Liverpoolian town-life following the disappearance is only one of the many problems plaguing poor Adrian whose luck in romance has run out again (t). (Cee-fax)
 7.30 **EastEnders**, (Cee-fax)
 8.00 **Dead's Army**, Classic war-time capers with Arthur Lowe and the boys of the Home Guard. This week Sgt Wilson puts the wrong photograph on the Home Guard recruitment posters (t). (Cee-fax)
 8.30 **Big Break**, Battle of the biceps game show with Jim Davidson and guests Stephen Hendry, Mike Hallett and Joe Johnson. (Cee-fax)
 9.00 **News**, regional news and weather. (Cee-fax)
 9.30 **All Good Things**, Shirley's weekend away seems to have exacerbated rather than quelled problems on the home front. Starring Brenda Blethyn. (Cee-fax)



A parodical cartoon of Cornish fisher Paddy Simmonds (10.20pm)

10.20 **Byline: Trescott For Easter**
 © CHOICE: Using characters from her *Shirley* newspaper strip, and supplying all their voices, the cartoonist Paddy Simmonds charts the gently simmering conflict between residents and incomers in a Cornish fishing village. Simmonds's *Trescott* is fictional but it stands for many real places. It is the old dilemma. The place needs visitors to earn its living but resents their intrusion. Second home owners (to which Simmonds pleads guilty) are often cast as the villains. Simmonds's *Trescott* is a parody on the Cornish fishing village, his awful sister-in-law Charlotte and *Trescott* native Kevin, who dropped out of the net race to return home and set her heritage pasties. It is a witty and well-observed film, made by someone who hates her favourite bit of Cornwall being defiled by caravan parks and time-share golfing villages, but respects the local scene to offer the same choice as she enjoys in London. (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland: The Ulster Air Show
 11.00 **Canney and Lacey: Violations**, Chris and Mary Beth do not receive much co-operation when they investigate a case of sexual assault in Riker's Prison (t). (Cee-fax), Northern Ireland: Open House 11.40 **Byline: Trescott For Easter**
 11.50 **Royal Ascot**, Highlights of the first day's racing 12.00 **News**, regional news and weather. (Cee-fax)
 12.00 **Weather**

BBC 2

6.45 **Open University: Physics - Vibrations of Sound** 7.10 **Technology**
 Return to the Base. Ends at 7.35
 8.00 **News**
 8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of business from the Houses of Lords and Commons
 9.00 **Daytime on Two: Sun Chance**, Maths help for adults. (Cee-fax)
 9.10 **Words and Pictures** 9.25 **Study Island - the Black Water**
 River Scheme 9.45 **Mathsworks** - Areas of Odd Shapes 10.00 **You and Me** 10.15 **Through the Looking Glass** 10.45 **Help Your Child with Reading** 11.05 **Watch** 11.15 **Job Bank** - The Music Business 11.35 **Standard Grade History** 11.55 **A-Level Statistics** - Regression 12.15 **Women Mean Business** (Cee-fax) 12.40 **Watch** - Celebration Food 12.55 **Step Up to Wordpower**, For adults with learning difficulties. (Cee-fax) 1.20 **Gordon T. Gopher** 1.30 **Barney** 1.35 **Roostschool**
 2.00 **News** and weather followed by **You and Me** (t) 2.15 **Under Salt**
 Autumn on Lough Erne. A portrait of one of Ireland's oldest yacht clubs (t) 2.35 **See Hear** A repeat of Sunday's edition with signing and subtitles (t)
 3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Westminster Live** 3.50 **News**, weather and regional news
 4.00 **Royal Ascot** continued from BBC1. Live coverage of the 4.20 race 4.35 **Through the Garden Gate**, Nurseryman Dennis Cornish visits the Old Barn in Fremington, north Devon (t)
 5.00 **Gardeners' World**, How to get the best out of a small front garden in Norfolk and a visit to an award-winning pond and bog garden in Suffolk (t)
 5.30 **Film: Dragon Wars**, (1957), An above-average Western starring Barry Sullivan and Dennis O'Keefe. A captain whose cavalry troop has been massacred takes command of a group of travellers trying to make their way across the Arizona desert to the safety of Fort Buchanan. But the group possesses a cache of valuable repeating rifles which Apache Indians are determined to get. With Moe Freeman and Jack Elam. Directed by Harold Siskind
 6.55 **Cardiff Singer of the World**, Round two from the St David's Hall in Cardiff sees performances by English soprano Jane Webster, Swiss baritone Giesela Denzler, Romanian soprano Adina Cristina Nilesu, Danish mezzo-soprano Randi Stene and Italian tenor Andrea Silvestri
 7.45 **Assignment: By Force of Islam?** Emily Buchanan reports on why Algeria, the Arab world's most westernised country, may succumb to Islamic fundamentalism
 8.30 **Chickadee: Parker's Blues**, Entertaining drama series about the teachers at Midland comprehensive. This week's episode focuses on *Shepherd*, Parker (Michael Simmonds), a sociology teacher who is letting his private life affect his work. His marriage has broken down and he has turned to drink. When a student makes a racist remark, Parker flies off the handle, an action he later regrets. (Cee-fax)
 9.00 **Twin Peaks**, The final episode of the series that has frequently infuriated but always entertained is directed by David Lynch himself. FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) comes face to face with the evil of the Black Lodge, Donna (Lara Flynn Boyle) makes an important discovery about Benjamin Horne (Richard Beymer) and *Assignment* (Shirley Fenn) chains herself to a good cause. (Cee-fax)
 9.50 **From Wimpey to Warrington: Bermondsey Boy**, Second in the series that takes a revealing look at aspects of masculinity. Dave sees himself as a "hard man", and the programme follows him as he goes about his day-to-day activities - evicting squatters, debating and representing cars. Dave also faces a court appearance charged with GBH, which threatens the very thing that characterises his masculinity - his freedom, his image and his "empire". The film-makers do well to resist the impulse to comment over the subject and instead allow him to describe his image, hopes and fears. (Cee-fax)
 10.30 **Newsnight** with Frances Stock
 11.15 **The Late Show**, Jeremy Isaacs talks to 70-year-old choreographer Merce Cunningham (t)
 11.50 **Weather**



Making a conclusive discovery: Lara Flynn Boyle (9.00pm)

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ITV

6.00 **TV-am**
 9.25 **Cross Wits**, Game show hosted by Tom O'Connor 9.55 **Thames**
 News and weather
 10.00 **Out of This World**, American comedy series
 10.30 **This Morning**, Family magazine series
 12.10 **Red, Jane and Freddy** tell stories and sing songs about toys (t)
 12.30 **News** with John Suchet 1.10 **Thames News** and weather
 1.20 **Home and Away** 1.50 **A Country Practice**
 2.20 **The High Road**, Drama series set in the Highlands 2.50 **Crazy Comparisons**, Game show hosted by Chris Tarrant
 3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **Families**, Soap linking the North of England with Australia
 3.55 **Thames** the Tank Engine and Friends (t) 4.00 **What's the News?** (t)
 4.15 **The Return of Dogtanian** 4.40 **Press Gang**, (Oracle)
 5.10 **Blockbusters** presented by Bob Holness
 5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes, (Oracle) Weather
 5.55 **Thames Help**, With details of the Hysterectomy Support Group
 6.00 **Home and Away** (t), (Oracle)
 6.30 **Thames News** and weather
 7.30 **Emmerdale**, Agricultural soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
 7.35 **Thames Reports**, Roger Broom reports from Oslo on that city's system of "peace pricing" - something that has been suggested to ease London's traffic congestion. Plus this challenge to the powerful musicians' union
 8.00 **The Bill: With Intent**, Fast-paced police drama. A briefing session with the Crown Prosecution Service at Sun Hill looks set to turn into a personal vendetta by DC Carter (Mark Wingett)
 8.30 **Wheel of Fortune**, Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell
 9.00 **Selling Hitler**
 © CHOICE: The Hitler diaries saga moves smoothly on, challenging us to pinch ourselves and remember that, however unlikely, it is all more or less true. The casting of Alexi Sayle as the man, former, singing Nazi versions of Cole Porter and giving his creations authenticity by throwing his own, is proving to be a masterstroke. He is just the right foil to Jonathan Pryce's intense, obsessive, *Stem* magazine reporter who is too busy dreaming of his star role in the "lost" Hitler opera to wonder whether he is being made a fool of. After a cracking start last week, tonight's second episode leads to head water. But this often happens in television drama and there still seems little doubt that *Selling Hitler* will be worth persevering with
 10.00 **News** at Ten with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong, (Oracle) Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather

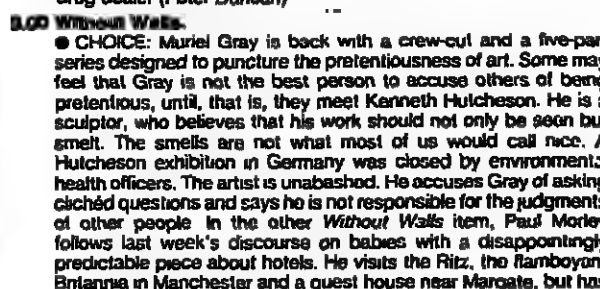


Pie in the sky? Japan's scientific hopes for the future (10.40pm)

10.40 **Viewpoint '91**
 © CHOICE: Sue Clayton's busy film takes a technological journey through Japan, offering glimpses of a future that many of us may feel we could do without. Japan, we are told, is looking beyond the relentless production of television sets and cars and seeking to make technology more human. High-tech is being replaced by soft-tech. Clean and sleek, sleeker and sleeker, it is looking for the track and traveling as fast as a jet plane, may be one thing. But who wants to live in an underground city or, for that matter, an underwater city? Microbes which eat toxic waste seem a good idea but how many couples will choose to spend their honeymoon in a hotel suspended in space? Even fish are not immune. Fish robots are being devised, to which the fish "chuck in" on hearing a signal. They then swim through the water, and when the fishermen track them down by satellite and move in for the catch. (Oracle)
 11.40 **Previews: Call Block 1**
 12.30 **It's My Belief**, Muslim leader Sheikh Akhtar argues that if Britain wants to be considered leader of all of its religious communities, it must change its laws
 1.00 **Newsnight** presented by Mariella Frostrup
 1.30 **Dance of the Millepattes**, Hosted by The *Times*' chess correspondent Raymond Keene, detailing the 12 best games ever played, with insights into the history and personalities of chess. Tonight features the Paulsen v Morphy, New York 1957 game
 2.00 **Donatuz**, Advice on what to do if your body doesn't look too beautiful in the bright sunlight
 3.00 **60 Minutes**, American news and current affairs magazine
 4.20 **Europe's Best Laid Plans**
 5.00 **Three's Company**, American sitcom
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Richard Bate, Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily 9.25 Schools**
 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Cameron
 12.30 **Business Daily** introduced by Susannah Simons
 1.00 **Sesame Street** (t)
 2.00 **Film: Eternally Yours** (1938, b/w) Comedy-drama starring Lorre's young wife as Anita Halstead, a young woman set to marry her sociable brother Crawford when she falls in love with daredevil magician Toby Halstead (David Niven). She marries Halstead and joins his stage act, which achieves world-wide fame. However, Halstead's increasingly dangerous stunts put a strain on their relationship and Anita soon dreams of a quieter life. With Hugh Herbert and Aubrey Smith. Directed by Tay Garnett
 3.45 **All the Queen's Horses**, A Post Office documentary about artist Patrick Cavanagh, commissioned to design a set of stamps featuring British horses (t)
 4.00 **Return to Nursing: Nursing Towards 2000**, Last in the *Open College* series looking at the range of opportunities for people interested in a career in nursing. This edition focuses on the future of nursing (t) (Teletext)
 4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**, Quiz hosted by William G. Stewart
 5.00 **Noah's Ark**, A repeat of the Spanish ecology series which took looks at the whales of the south Atlantic (t)
 5.30 **Listening Eye: Deaf TV - The Future**, Series focusing on issues important to the deaf and hard of hearing. This edition asks why programmes specifically for the deaf account for a mere 25 hours of television a year. A studio discussion follows and guests include Terry Riley, assistant producer of the BBC's *See Hear* series, and Austin Reeves of the Deaf Broadcasting Council. With signing and subtitles
 6.00 **Dave: Fatal Distraction**, American sitcom
 6.30 **Happy Days**, By My Valentine, sitcom set in the Fifties
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** presented by Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext)
 7.50 **Comment**
 8.00 **Our Backyard: Dear Mr Parkinson**, Series about the attempts of ordinary people to combat the various threats to their environment. The residents of Colville Road in east London are campaigning to stop the planned M11 spur road involving 300 of their homes and making more than a thousand people homeless
 8.30 **Teenage Health Freaks: Guns, Drugs and Video 8 - Part 2**, Entertaining comedy drama written by Daniel Peacock. It is the morning after the party and Peter (Alex Langdon) must remove his father's replica cowboy guns which Amanda (Lisa Widdows) sold to a drug dealer (Peter Duncan)
 9.00 **Without Walls**
 © CHOICE: Muriel Gray is back with a crew-cut and a five-part series designed to puncture the pretentiousness of art. Some may feel that Gray is not the best person to accuse others of being pretentious, until that is, they meet Kenneth Hutchins. He is a sculptor, who believes that his work should not only be seen but smelt. The smells are not what most of us would call nice. A Hutchins exhibition in Germany was closed by environmental health officers. The artist is unabashed. He accuses Gray of asking clichéd questions and says he is not responsible for the judgments of other people in the other *Without Walls* item. Paul Morley follows last week's discourse on the relationship between a disappointingly predictable peace about hotels. He visits the Ritz, the flamboyant Britannia in Manchester and a guest house near Margate, but has nothing funny or original to say about any of them



Displaying the art of pretentiousness: Muriel Gray (8.00pm)

10.00 **Film: How I Won the War** (1957), A pointed anti-war satire starring Michael Crawford as the leader of an eight-man patrol sent behind enemy lines in Egypt during the second world war, to set up an "advance area" in order to impress the VIP who will be visiting the area once the war is over. Directed by Richard Lester
 10.55 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, Lead singer of the band *Inspiral Carpets* submits to the inquisitive computer (t)
 12.35 **Four Nations**, Four animated shorts - Norman McLaren's *Opening Speech* and *Now is the Time*, George Dunning's celebrated anti-drugs film *The Maggot* and *Charley*, made by Dunning in conjunction with other directors
 1.00 **John Young**, A film of the singer's 1968 concert filmed at Jones Beach and the Palladium in New York and featuring songs from his *Freedom* album. Ends at 1.35

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 6.55pm-7.00 **News** 7.00-7.05 **Help** 7.10-7.15 **The Day After Tomorrow** 7.20-7.25 **News** 7.30-7.35 **Help** 7.40-7.45 **The Day After Tomorrow** 7.50-7.55 **News** 8.00-8.05 **Help** 8.10-8.15 **The Day After Tomorrow** 8.20-8.25 **News** 8.30-8.35 **Help** 8.40-8.45 **The Day After Tomorrow** 8.50-8.55 **News** 9.00-9.05 **Help** 9.10-9.15 **The Day After Tomorrow** 9.20-9.25 **News** 9.30-9.35 **Help** 9.40-9.45 **The Day After Tomorrow** 9.50-9.55 **News** 10.00-10.05 **Help** 10.10-10.15 **The Day After Tomorrow** 10.20-10.25 **News** 10.30-10.35 **Help** 10.40-10.45 **The Day After Tomorrow** 10.50-10.55 **News** 11.00-11.05 **Help** 11.10-11.15 **The Day After Tomorrow** 11.20-11.25 **News** 11.30-11.35 **Help** 11.40-11.45 **The Day After Tomorrow** 11.50-11.55 **News** 12.00-12.05 **Help** 12.10-12.15 **The Day After Tomorrow** 12.20-12.25 **News** 12.30-12.35 **Help** 12.40-12.45 **The Day After Tomorrow** 12.50-12.55 **News** 1.00-1.05 **Help** 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Jobless shadow falls on Oxford

By JOHN YOUNG

IN WARM, if blustery, weather, Oxford has just celebrated the end of another academic year. But high spirits among this year's graduates were tinged by trepidation at the prospect of looking for jobs at a time of deep recession and rising unemployment.

Gone at least for the time being are the days when the head-hunters arrived in Oxford competing for the best and brightest. The university recently published figures showing there were twice as many unemployed graduates at the end of last year as there were two years previously. For the first time since 1984, the number of graduates still without a job after six months of searching topped 100. Even more were in short-term work, causing the university careers service to fear that underemployment might be the greater problem.

A report from the Institute of Manpower Studies, to be published later this week, says vacancies for all undergraduates have fallen by at least 20 per cent this year, and Oxford is no exception. Although this week's vacancy bulletin is only marginally smaller than last year's, the decline in openings in big accountancy firms and elsewhere in the City has forced many students to lower their sights.

In the University Careers Service building in the Banbury Road 30 students were browsing through the library, completing CVs or being interviewed by counsellors. A notice said: "Choosing a job is easier if you think first about your qualities: what are you good at? what are you interested in? what do you think is important?"

Tom Snow, the service's director, said Oxford graduates were potentially highly employable, if only because they were intelligent and well motivated. Their disadvantage was the expectation of many that an Oxford degree would lead immediately and automatically to prestigious intellectually-based work.

Economic recession was reducing general employment levels and recruitment of new graduates. That did not mean that those graduating from Oxford this year would remain permanently on the dole. But it did mean they would have to set about job hunting in a more professional and committed way and over a longer period than previously.



Pomp and circumstance: the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leaving Windsor Castle yesterday after the Order of the Garter ceremony

Brooke talks under way as IRA kills part-time soldier

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT



Paisley: delaying tactics on approval of chairman

THE apparently irreconcilable forces of unionism and nationalism in Northern Ireland faced each other at the negotiating table for the first time in 16 years yesterday, as talks on a new political order for the province got under way. The opening session began about four hours after the latest killing, by the IRA, of a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, shot dead as he arrived for work in the docks area of Belfast.

The talks began with an address by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, which was followed by two

introductory presentations by John Alderdice of the Northern Ireland Alliance party and John Hume, the SDLP leader. The two unionist parties will make opening speeches today. The start was delayed several hours by what seems to have been an attempt by Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist party leader, to delay his formal approval of the choice of Sir Ninian Stephen, a former governor-general of Australia, as independent chairman for the second strand of the process.

Sir Ninian, aged 68, a former high court judge, interviewed at his home in Australia,

said he was pleased that his name had been accepted by all the parties. He said he faced his task with a certain amount of trepidation. "If it has a successful outcome, I think that will be a great advance," he said.

Guarded optimism was evident among the politicians arriving at Stormont. Seamus Mallon, the SDLP security spokesman, said: "I trust we will stay at it until we get a resolution of the problem." Dr Chris McGimpsey of the Ulster Unionist party spoke of what he called an "historic day" for Northern Ireland and a chance to bring an end to 20 years of violence.

Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, which is not invited to the talks because of its support for IRA violence, did not, in a short statement, condemn the process but said the measure of its success would be whether, at its end, "we have moved any closer to a democratic all-Ireland settlement."

The IRA's latest victim was Brian Lawrence, aged 34, a married man, who had served as a part-time soldier in the UDR for ten years. He was shot through the driver's window of his car as he arrived for work at a tyre company.

National grid plan studied

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to develop a national water grid are being studied by the leaders of the rivers authority as a means of overcoming the difficulties caused by drought.

The authority is also investigating the creation of desalination plants as part of long-term plans to develop water resources.

Both options have been ruled out as uneconomic in the past. Environment department officials believe the present studies will produce a similar result but the rivers authority says its investigation is part of water resources planning into the next century.

Tony Baldry, a junior environment minister, told MPs last night that two hot dry summers, and three relatively dry winters had severely reduced underground water supplies, in some cases to the lowest recorded levels.

He said that contingency plans had been drawn up in the event of another hot dry summer, involving the National Rivers Authority, the National Farmers' Union and other organisations. The water companies and the authority are to launch campaigns urging the public to conserve water.

Political sketch

Fugitive thoughts on mixed-up day

MONDAY brought an astonishing attack by Geoffrey Dickens (C, Littleborough and Saddleworth) on Margaret Thatcher. That's my theory and I'm sticking to it.

Mr Dickens rose on a question about the serious fraud squad. "As soon as a villain knows the game is up," he bellowed, they "hot foot it out of the country..." We gasped. Mrs Thatcher was in Chicago... "leaving behind devastation and misery." He then called for such people to be rounded up "and convicted". He omitted to mention trial.

Mr Dickens was always a supporter of Mrs Thatcher, but who else could he mean? Lord Lucas has disappeared and Bruce Forsyth has come back voluntarily.

Exotic flavour was maintained by Antony Marlow (C, Northampton North), who suddenly rose on a point of order and demanded to raise a question "about the virility of the British male".

"Not you!" someone shouted, for Mr Marlow has nine children; but it was a taunt from the French prime minister at which he was protesting. Mr Marlow felt, as we all do, that failure to "fancy an elderly French woman" should not be confused with impotence.

"The virility of hon members really isn't a matter for me," grunted Mr Speaker, very macho in his wig and lights.

It was a looking glass world at Westminster. On the radio, Labour spokesmen were calling on government to bail out the members of Lloyd's, while in the Chamber Ann Clwyd, Labour's overseas aid spokeswoman, was insisting on the deployment of artillery in northern Iraq.

Opposition policy on Lloyd's has heads here shaking in bafflement but is easily explained. It is unlikely that most Labour MPs know exactly what Lloyd's is, many perhaps supposing the corporation to be a beleaguered small steelworks in

Wales. Moreover there are words which, like Pavlovian signals, trigger automatic responses in MPs. If you say "Livingstone" to Tory MPs, there will be a bark of "shame!" before you have time to add that it was not Ken but the missionary doctor you had in mind. Say "community" to a Liberal Democrat and he will declare himself in favour of consulting it, involving it and proportionately representing it... too fast for you to explain that it was the African community to which you referred.

"Bail out" has the same effect on Labour MPs. The cries of "hear, hear!" will drown out what comes next. Someone has said "bail out" very clearly to an Opposition policy committee, then mumbled "the members of Lloyd's" quietly, beneath the growls of approval which immediately ensued. Should an ocean liner ever sink during a socialist cruise, there would be mayhem in the lifeboats as volunteers were sought to start the bailing. They would be scratching each other's eyes out to have a turn.

The Opposition's enthusiasm for deploying artillery in northern Iraq is harder to explain and can only be understood in the context of a phenomenon growing, largely unmentioned upon, on both sides of the Commons divide. I call it "post-imperialism". It combines the sentiment that HM government policy towards non-white people abroad should be for their own good, with the view that they will not themselves always be the best judge of that. Post-imperialism sprouts unabashedly from the emerging bipartisan attitude towards overseas arms sales. Yesterday it peeped through Labour policy on overseas aid, too: a vigorous little sapling from the great, old, felled, imperial tree.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Tap water sells for £1.10p a glass

Continued from page 1

purified water with a mineral content. Just because it doesn't come from the water table directly doesn't mean it isn't mineral water. In short we are giving bartenders their own little bottling plant."

Bottlers of natural mineral water—natural being the legal distinction—would disagree. The Buxton Mineral Water Company in Derbyshire said that bottlers of natural spring waters have to meet European

Community purity codes that are much more stringent than those covering tap water.

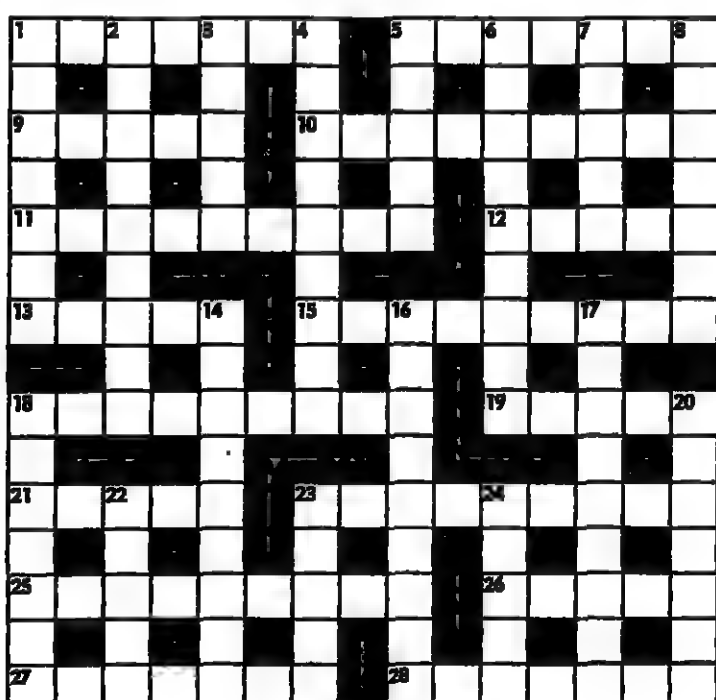
Buxton accepted that there was nothing legally that natural spring water bottlers can do with their rivals. Gerald Richardson, spokesman for The Minors Food Ale and Wine House, which has ten outlets in London and the southeast, said that the new system had ousted the natural mineral waters in the bar although it continued to serve

the traditional drinks in the restaurant.

The company, which operates under the company name of Richardson's Inns, has kits made by Eco Spring of Old Harlow Essex at eight of the inns. There have been no complaints from customers paying £1.10 a glass.

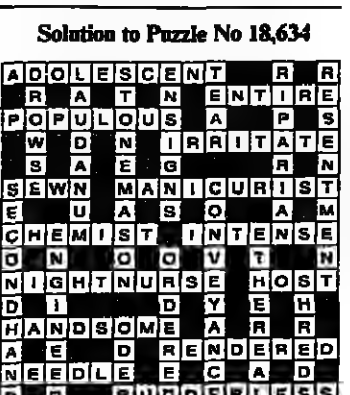
Mr Richardson said that at the other two the cost of the equipment, around £2,500, had not been covered by extra profits.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,635



- ACROSS**
- Set free - abused in return (7).
 - Play wear given to girl (7).
 - For instance, I promise everlasting love at the outset (5).
 - Make a target of some family friend (4,5).
 - Painted the town red, rose-red - it needed a change (9).
 - Children matter (5).
 - A number not seen in the race (5).
 - It doesn't matter if man catches pest (5,4).
 - After a girl - soldier in possession of a pass (9).
 - Some find it totally the same (5).
 - Novices can always begin learning easy stich (5).
 - Disparage Spooner's two classes (4,5).

- DOWN**
- Bill necking or becoming rough (9).
 - Take over country in rebellion, imprisoning the King (5).
 - Mild fun could be arranged by taking care (7).
 - Here the courts of old overset (7).
 - Revised, amended and varied (7).
 - Abasement of Bunter in row over two shillings (9).
 - Dance not finished by servant (5).
 - Give a different order to the back row (9).
 - Dug stuff up (5).
 - Tin that's rusty and broken (9).
 - Bell is under 45° (5).
 - Will a stronger player show up one from the sticks? (7).
 - Warned to remove most of fur (6,3).
 - Signal of little substance (4,5).
 - Found reduction unusual (9).
 - Art style has unusual propriety (7).
 - Farfing organization takes several days over work (7).
 - Scholar, politician and essayist (5).
 - All the same photograph (5).
 - Soak to such an extent before application (5).



Concise crossword page 17

WEATHER

A generally cool day but with some bright spell in parts of southern England. Scotland, Northern Ireland and north Wales will start dull with some rain. Southern parts of England will have some early dry weather with the odd brighter spell but there will be some showers in the afternoon, some of them prolonged. Outlook: more cloud and rain but becoming drier and brighter in eastern areas.

AROUND BRITAIN

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| London | 12 | SW | 100 | |
| Edinburgh | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Belfast | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Manchester | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Sheffield | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Nottingham | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Leeds | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Birmingham | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Coventry | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Southampton | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Bournemouth | 13 | W | 100 | |
| Exeter | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Swansea | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |

FORECAST

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| London | 12 | SW | 100 | |
| Edinburgh | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Belfast | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Manchester | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Sheffield | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Nottingham | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Leeds | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Birmingham | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Coventry | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Southampton | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Bournemouth | 13 | W | 100 | |
| Exeter | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Swansea | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |

SEA

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
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| London | 12 | SW | 100 | |
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| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
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| Coventry | 11 | W | 100 | |
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WIND

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| London | 12 | SW | 100 | |
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TEMP

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
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WIND

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
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TEMP

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
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SEA

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
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| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |

WIND

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
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| Belfast | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Manchester | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Sheffield | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Nottingham | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Leeds | 10 | W | 100 | |
| Birmingham | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Coventry | 11 | W | 100 | |
| Southampton | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Bournemouth | 13 | W | 100 | |
| Exeter | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Swansea | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |
| Cardiff | 12 | W | 100 | |

TEMP

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----------|-----|-----|----|--------|---------|
| 70 | c | Torquay | 4.5 | .05 | 18 | 38 | cloudy |
| 79 | f | Wick | 4.5 | .05 | 18 | 81 | sunny |
| 79 | f | Worthing | 4.5 | .12 | 54 | cloudy | |
| 66 | f | | 2.7 | .17 | 14 | 57 | thunder |
| 55 | f | | | | | | |
| 50 | f | | | | | | |

Sunday's figures are latest available

| |
|--------------------------|
| TIMES WEATHERCALL |
|--------------------------|

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26
● LAW TIMES 27-29
● LAW 31
● SPORT 33-36

Massive bailout needed at Lloyd's

TAX concessions being considered by Treasury ministers for Lloyd's names could be worth hundreds of millions of pounds to the wealthy individuals who provide the market with its capital.

The estimate, which conflicts with the £50 million calculation produced by Lloyd's, was provided yesterday by Chatet, the highly respected firm of independent Lloyd's analysts.

Lloyd's and Conservative MPs are lobbying the government to allow names to benefit from the extension of trading loss carry-back relief from one to three years.

John Kew, of Chatet, said an average 40 per cent rate of relief on the expected £1.5 billion losses for the 1989 and 1990 would allow claims far in excess of £50 million.

Lloyd's has claimed that names should receive the same treatment as insurance companies and that their activities as underwriters more closely resemble sole traders than individuals. A Treasury spokesman said no decision has yet been taken on introducing a government amendment to help names.

Hanson 'against'

Hanson, widely believed to be preparing a takeover bid for ICI, is likely to oppose a sale of ICI's fast-growing pharmaceuticals division. ICI is due soon to reveal details of its restructuring plan and the City is convinced that a disposal or joint venture involving the drugs business is being considered.

Analysts estimate that ICI could raise more than £2 billion from a sale of the division. The Times understands that Hanson, as part of merger proposals outlined to ICI, suggested an expansion of the pharmaceuticals operations through acquisition. It is believed that Hanson now has no plans for an early bid for ICI barring drastic changes in circumstances, providing it approves the £300 million restructuring plan.

Comment, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6250 (-0.0145)
German mark 2.9209 (-0.0105)
Exchange Index 89.4 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1977.8 (+1.3)
FT-SE 100 2524.0 (+1.7)
New York Dow Jones 3005.81 (+5.36)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24943.09 (-150.80)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
Seton Healthcare 162½p (+13p)
Broken Hill 585½p (+13p)
Peggs 240½p (+12p)
FALLS:
Cable & Wireless 538½p (-8p)
Cambridge 185½p (-9p)
London Int 255p (-8p)
Argyll 296½p (-8p)
M&G 489p (-12p)
Henderson Adm 810p (-18p)
Boots 387½p (-9p)
De La Rue 366½p (-10p)
VSEL 407½p (-11p)
P&FC 154p (-13p)
Hambros 275p (-8p)
Cater Allen 355p (-28p)
Grand Met 330p (-10p)
Union Discount 785p (-9p)
Grand Met 330p (-10p)
Yorkshire Chem 427p (-18p)
Closing Prices...Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 11½%
3-month interbank 11½p-11½p
3-month eligible bills 10½p-10½p
US Prime Rate 8½%
Federal Funds 5½p-5½p
3-month Treasury Bills 5.58-5.58p
30-year bonds 96½-96½

CURRENCIES

London:
£/\$ 1.6250
£/DM 2.9209
£/Sfr 2.5088
£/FF 6.9285
£/Yen 229.20
£/Ind 58.4
ECU 80.701527
£/ECU 425.461
New York:
£/\$ 1.6250
£/DM 2.9209
£/Sfr 2.5088
£/FF 6.9285
£/Yen 229.20
£/Ind 58.4
ECU 80.701527
£/ECU 425.461

GOLD

London: Plating:
AM \$367.30 pm \$365.80
close \$365.70-367.20 (\$225.50-226.40)
New York:
Comex \$367.45-367.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$17.50 bbl (\$17.75)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

Polls help to push pound down

Weak sterling hits hopes of base rates cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GROWING uncertainty about economic recovery, coupled with waning government popularity in the opinion polls, pushed the pound down against main currencies, reducing government scope for cutting interest rates.

A steep drop in the peseta, meanwhile, lowered sterling's effective floor within the European exchange-rate mechanism, giving dealers the chance to sell pounds with no risk.

Fears that a keynote speech in Chicago by Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister, could undermine government credibility, unsettled the foreign exchange markets further.

The authorities, keen to dispel any suggestion of a

serious run on sterling, offered unusually frank comments, one official saying the pound was "not in danger territory". At the London close, sterling's trade-weighted index had fallen 0.4 to 89.4, its lowest closing rate since June 11 last year, a matter of concern to the Bank of England, which fears that Britain could start to sink in inflation if the overall exchange rate falls too low.

Against the mark, anchor currency of the ERM, the pound fell almost a penny, as dealers continued to speculate on the government being forced to cut interest rates again soon to kick-start the economy before the next general election, despite a warning from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, on Friday, that to

do so would be to return to old mistakes.

Given that the pound is allowed to fluctuate up to 6 per cent against the peseta, the authorities said it was still comfortably above its effective floor.

As the dollar continued to advance, sterling lost 1.45 cents, ending in London at \$1.6250. Against the mark, it finished at DM2.9209, after DM2.9303 on Friday. On the ERM parity grid, the pound was third from bottom, ahead of the Danish krone and French franc.

The peseta, which in the past has been monitored as a herald of rate cuts in Britain, eased in anticipation of a deal between the government and trade unions that would include lower interest rates. The currency fell last week on rumours that Spain was moving to narrow ERM fluctuation bands from its present 6 per cent limits.

The peseta held its position as the strongest currency in the ERM, but its lead against the other lowest currency, the French franc, was down to 4.7 per cent. Against sterling, it was 4.5 per cent ahead.

The peseta brought sterling's effective floor, at which both central banks are expected to intervene, to about DM2.8730, about 2 pence below last week's level, but it could be allowed to drop further for short periods.

The dollar ended firmer, after falling to hold on to a brief break above DM1.80. Growing confidence about American recovery gave the dollar firm underpinning.

Economic indicators today and tomorrow are expected to provide dealers with further direction, with forecasts pointing to more signs of revival.

The London money markets saw interest rates firm slightly as concern about the pound's weakness eroded expectations of an early base rate cut. The three-month interbank rate closed at 11½ per cent, up ¼.

Peseta pick, page 23

Retail sales fall worst since 1980

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RETAILERS last month suffered the biggest annual fall in retail sales since June 1980, casting fresh doubt over the consumer-led economic recovery the government insists is imminent.

City forecasts had pointed to a small rise, but the official figures showed volume sales falling a provisional 0.3 per cent in May, after seasonal adjustment, to stand 2.9 per cent below the same month last year.

This followed a 3.3 per cent slump in sales in April, as shoppers stayed home after a spending spree in March to beat tax and duty increases announced in the Budget.

Economists saw the figures as underlining the continued weakness of the economy, despite the quick series of half-point interest rate cuts since mid-February.

Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, said the May figures took

retail sales back close to their winter lows, when uncertainty over the Gulf war made consumers cautious. Although poor weather may have hit sales, he said spending was being depressed by rising unemployment and slowing real income growth.

Despite the lack of evidence in official figures, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has stuck by his forecast that the economy will start to recover in the second half of this year, driven by rising consumer spending.

Although yesterday's data were seen to reinforce the domestic case for lowering interest rates again, the weaker pound would appear to have ruled out any early move to reduce base rates from 11.5 per cent.

Recent opinion polls have highlighted consumer concern about unemployment, partially offsetting the beneficial effect of lower interest rates.

Recession and Gulf war cause turbulence at BAA

By MATTHEW BOND

THE Gulf war, economic recession and the collapse of the commercial property market caused BAA, the privatised airport operator, to report pre-tax profits down 4 per cent at £247 million.

The fall in profits was the first for ten years. Sir Norman Payne, the company's chairman, said: "The deepening economic recession was compounded by the Gulf war, and growth in demand for air travel was significantly cut back." Sir Norman estimated that the war had lost the company 2.8 million passengers and lost it revenue of £25 million.

Sir Norman announced that he would be retiring from BAA at the end of next month.



Sir Norman Payne retiring

Dr Brian Smith, the former chairman of MB Group, will become BAA's non-executive chairman.

The slip in pre-tax profits came after a £37 million provision against the value of BAA's non-airport property

assets. These were acquired in 1988, when the company paid £220 million to acquire Lynton, then a fully quoted property company. Lynton, together with a number of other non-core activities, look like playing a rather secondary role under the new regime introduced by Sir John Egan, who shortly completes his first year as chief executive.

The company, to help increase its borrowing power, is proposing to quadruple its issued share capital to £500 million, via a three-for-one scrip issue and consolidation of £375 million of the company's revaluation reserve.

A final dividend of 7.75p (7p) gives a total of 13p against 11.5p.

Temps, page 23

Small firms may pay the penalty

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

UNRULY small businesses could start attracting penalty points from their banks under the terms of a new contract suggested by the Forum of Private Business. The forum hopes its proposals will help to end the bitter dispute between the two sides over bank charges and service.

The forum suggests that the banks could deduct points from each of their small business customers for bad behaviour in the same way that speeding or careless motorists suffer points on their driving licences. After three black marks a bank could call in a company's loan.

Companies would lose points for exceeding their loans, failing to meet financial targets or not producing information on time. They would gain points for making a loan repayment early, or beating their budgets.

The main clearing banks said yes-

terday that they were discussing the idea with the forum. The penalty points system, however, would have fascinating implications if it was applied to larger businesses. Scores at companies such as Polly Peck would have been astronomical.

The forum, which represents 18,200 small businesses, believes its proposal would prevent a bank from calling in an overdraft without warning and let small businesses know exactly where they stand with their banks. Under the terms of the new written contract, banks would agree not to change or reduce the lending facilities of companies that did not breach the three-point barrier.

A preliminary survey by the forum shows how harshly small businesses have been treated by the banks during the recession. Almost a third of companies have had their overdrafts or loans reduced or cancelled since January or had a request for an extension denied. Ten per cent have been forced to accept

an increased interest rate on their borrowings.

These are the first statistics to be published since the government started its investigation into the banks' treatment of small businesses and are likely to be used by the Treasury in its report to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

Stan Mendham, the forum's chief executive, said the dispute between the banks and small businesses did not warrant an investigation by the government or the Office of Fair Trading, or a general code of practice, but the two sides needed to confer to reach a compromise.

"Our proposals would put the business owner in the driving seat," he said.

The forum is also challenging the banks on their changing practices. In a recent poll, 84 per cent of forum members called for banks to provide a full invoice listing the various charges, instead of lumping them together in a single debit as many do now.



JOHN Clark, brought into BET as chief executive 75 days ago with a mission to control debt and gearing, and increase earnings, says the year ahead will be challenging. Pre-tax profits fell from £322.3 million to £217 million in the year to end-March. Turnover was £2.8 billion (£2.7 billion), while the final dividend is maintained at 9p, making 13.75p (13p) for the year. Tempus, page 23.

Abbey shares 'burnt in skips'

A MAILING firm hired to send out Abbey National share certificates decided to burn them because it could not keep up with the workload, it was alleged yesterday.

Alexander Scott, the head of Business Mailing Services, Greenwich, southeast London, and three of his workers loaded thousands of certificates in skips outside their office and set light to them, it was alleged.

The plot turned the building society's stock market flotation, in 1989, into a fiasco, as thousands of investors waited in vain for their certificates and refund cheques to arrive, a jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court was told.

Business Mailing Services was contracted by Lloyds Bank to send out nearly 900,000 certificates. Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said that when the company found it could not deliver the certificates on time, the defendants decided to dump them and claim they had been sent.

"They were able to lay the blame at the door of the GPO," he said. "The police investigation showed the GPO's own internal procedures were somewhat lax."

Mr Scott and his accomplices put the undelivered certificates in skips outside the company's premises and burnt them, Mr Lovell-Pank said.

One of the defendants, Michael Hanratty, a warehouseman, allegedly admitted to a colleague he "was burning shares in one of the skips". The police believe only about half of the 900,000 certificates delivered to BMS were ever mailed.

Mr Lovell-Pank said the firm could not handle the vast amount of work. "Other employees paint a picture of disorder and delay at these premises," he said, "and a shambles in the work which was being carried out."

Mr Scott, Mr Hanratty, Bridget Perry, a company supervisor and Sarah Denay, a driver, all deny conspiring to defraud Lloyds Bank and Abbey National. All four also pleaded not guilty to theft of the certificates within the same data.

The case continues today.

Scottish power issues to trade at a premium

By ROSS TIBMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Scottish Power and Scottish Hydro-Electric, the Scottish electricity companies, are expected to begin trading at a hefty premium today, after Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, confirmed that the £2.88 billion privatisation issue was 3.2 times subscribed.

Institutions bid an average of 123p for the 100p part-paid shares in the back-end tender offer, setting a marker for the start of dealings.

Mr Lang said 320,000 customers of Scottish Power, or

20 per cent of the total, had applied for shares. At Hydro, which is about one-third Power's size, 26 per cent of the £23,000 customers applied.

Retail demand was highest at Scottish Power, because employees of Scottish Nuclear were also able to make priority applications. Employees of the two groups acquired about 12 per cent of Power's shares, while Hydro employees bought about 7 per cent of their company's stock.

In total, 2.2 million applica-

tions were received. Customers made up 34 per cent of the applicants. They have been allocated 24 per cent of the shares in Hydro-Electric and 29 per cent of the shares in Scottish Power.

Non-customers who registered for incentives will see a modest scaling-back of their applications. Non-customers who failed to register for incentives will have their cheques returned.

Customers who applied for 2,000 shares or less in their local company only will receive all the shares they sought. Those who sought more will have their allocations scaled back, or their cheques returned.

Customers who sought shares in both companies will have their allocations scaled back, receiving proportionately fewer shares in the company which does not service their home.

Non-customers will receive fewer shares than they sought. Those who applied for the minimum of 300 shares will receive 250 shares, of which 90 will be in Hydro and 160 in Scottish Power.

Letters, page 15

Vickers rejects attack

VICKERS, the British builder of the Challenger 2 tank, which is expected to be selected by the Cabinet today to re-equip the British Army, has rejected suggestions that collaboration with a German manufacturer would have provided a better solution to defence needs.

Krauss-Maffei, builder of a rival for the contract, the Leopard 2, says in a letter to The Times that the public debate has paid too much

attention to jobs, and not enough to performance and reliability of the contenders and compatibility with tanks used by other Nato forces.

Vickers has collaborated with Krauss-Maffei before, notably in the development of the Vickers Mark 7 tank in 1988. Efforts to sell the tank in the Middle East were thwarted, allegedly by difficulty in obtaining German export licences.

Letters, page 15

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For our current interest rates call up Arrow on Reuters

By JONATHAN FRYNN

Harrison Industries, the door and castings group, reported pre-tax profits of £732,000 (£2.91 million) for the year to end-March. The final dividend is cut from 5p to 1.25p a share, making 3.25p (7.3p).

Cannon: question mark

Devenish shares fell 10p to 194p, while Boddington shares rose 4p to 150p.

Tommy Bird will remain chairman of the business, which will be renamed Allied

ASW will pay for Bird from its cash pile, which was £24 million at the end of last year. The deal needs approval from the European Commission.

Worst quarter but profits rise: Anthony Hawser and Anna Vinton, joint chairmen

By MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

Anthony Hawser, the joint chairman, said that sales improved on a like-for-like basis and every shop in the group made a profit, including the three opened during the year.

final quarter, but remained patchy and difficult. But he expected the group to remain one of the better performers in the sector.

There are plans to increase the number of shops to 25 with two scheduled to open this year. Balance sheet gearing is 40 per cent.

By Our City Staff

AFTER recommending a £23.6 million takeover bid for their company, directors of Tace face a battle to ensure their survival to see the deal through to completion.

By MARTIN BARROW

ordinated with Framlington, another substantial shareholder, will vote against an adjournment and remain confident it will be able to install a new board under Michael Beckett, a former

Proxy votes cast ahead of the meeting suggested that Norwich Union counted on

the support of almost 45 per cent of shareholders. Tacc speaks for about 33 per cent. Mike Sandland, Norwich Union's chief investment manager, said shareholders

were unhappy with Tace's prompt recommendation of CEI's terms before the board had the opportunity to see the offer document.

INTERNATIONAL Communication & Data, the database services group, is raising £1.84 million to buy Limebrook, which owns a computer services supplier, and to provide extra working capital. There is a placing and open offer at 14.25p. ICD made a pre-tax profit of £830,000 for the year to end-February.

ELECTRONIC Data Processing, the computer distributor, has increased interim pre-tax profits by 127 per cent to £1.86 million for the six months to end-March. Sales in the first half were £8.65 million compared with £8.33 million for the previous corresponding period. The interim dividend is 1.75p, a 125 per cent increase on the 0.775p paid in 1990. The company said that it expected the full-year results to be well ahead of last year, but did not anticipate such a dramatic increase in profits in the second half.

recover to make slight new highs."

- **Tokyo** — The Nikkei average fell 150.80 points to 2,943.09.
- **Frankfurt** — The Dax index ended 1.24 points higher at 1,701.07, well below its intraday high of 1,718.21.
- **Sydney** — The all-ordinaries index rose 16.5 points to 1,523.3. (Reuters)

STOCK MARKET

Others recently the subject of bid speculation include Trafalgar House, down 2p to 254p. British Aerospace, believed by some to be in-

Interested in bidding, added 4pp to 591p. However, a source close to the company has emphasised that BAe is not going to bid for Trafalgar.

BET, the refocused industrial services group, fell 7p to 174p, after a fall of nearly 33 per cent in annual profits. This accompanied news that

House. BTR, the industrial conglomerate over which speculation of European expansion continues, lost 6p to 389p.

stock overhang left Yorkshire Chemical 16p lower at 427p, while Laporte, which had been busy presenting to analysts yesterday, firmed 3p to 542p.

MAJOR INDICES

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| New York | 3005.81 (+5.36) | General | 5639.89 (-4.30) |
| Dow Jones | 361.90 (+0.39) | Paris: CAC | 491.96 (+1.38) |
| 1000 Repointe | | Zurich: SCS Gen | n/a |
| Tokyo | | | |
| Nikkei Average | 24643.08 (-150.80) | London: | |
| Hong Kong | | FTSE 100 | 1211.78 (+0.35) |
| Hong Seng | 1280.80 | FTSE 50 Share | 1345.39 (-0.02) |
| FTSE Euro 100 | 1149.39 (-2.82) | FT Gold Minus | 197.2 (-4.5) |
| Amsterd. | | 30-day interest | 92.97 (+0.02) |
| Frankfurt | 96.2 (+0.3) | 30-day T-bill | 83.72 (-0.03) |
| Sydney: AO | 1523.3 (+16.5) | Bearish | 223.36 |
| Frankfurt: DAX | 1701.07 (+1.24) | SDAX Volume | 224.3 |

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| | Cale | | | | | Fest | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Seas | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Seas | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr |
| All U.S. | 580 | 62 | 83 | 91 | 95 | 8 | 13 | | | |
| AA (57) | 526 | 56 | 77 | 86 | 16 | 24 | 32 | | | |
| AA300 | 526 | 56 | 77 | 86 | 16 | 24 | 32 | | | |
| AA350 | 100 | 9 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 7% | 9% | | | |
| * (106) | 110 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 13 | 15 | | | |
| AA360 | 100 | 9 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 7% | 9% | | | |
| Seas | 929 | 57 | 90 | - | 8 | 21 | - | | | |
| * (909) | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA370 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA380 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA390 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA400 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA410 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA420 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA430 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA440 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA450 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA460 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA470 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA480 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA490 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA500 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA510 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA520 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA530 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA540 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA550 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA560 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA570 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA580 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA590 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA600 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA610 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA620 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA630 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA640 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA650 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA660 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA670 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA680 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA690 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA700 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA710 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA720 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA730 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA740 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | 40 | - | | | |
| AA750 | 977 | 26 | 41 | - | 26 | | | | | |

RECENT ISSUES

| COURTESIES | | Oryx Gold | | 104 |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------|----------|-----|
| Aberforth Smk (100p) | 124 | Pearson Housie | 76 | |
| Aberforth Spkt (100p) | 122 | RiverAire Smk (100p) | 102 | |
| Alliance Film | 66 | St James Place | 79-1 | |
| Alliance Rte | 105 | Smaller Int Trav (500p) | 70 | |
| Amalgam Group | 16 | TR Euro Growth | 101 | |
| Amalgam Rte (155p) | 57 | Tollgate | 82 | |
| AMW Group | 18 | Trip Int Trav (50p) | 40 | |
| Contra-Cyber Club | 106 | Unknown | 175 | |
| Craxley Blue Chip (100p) | 102 | | | |
| Craxley Rte (100p) | 69 | RIGHTS ISSUES | | |
| Eds | 46 | Anglo Int N/P | 4 1/2 | |
| Eds | 111 | Bischofs Lats N/P | 1 | |
| East Germany Int (100p) | 66 | Carlyle Corp | 25-1 | |
| Eurobank | 63 | Lon & Ass N/P | 2 | |
| Finches Press | 181 | Merchant N/P | 10 1/2-1 | |
| Geared Int (100p) | 1 | Morrell Gas N/P | 80-8 | |
| Greenside Pot | 38-8 | Smith WW N/P | 3 | |
| Greenwich Rte | 220-42 | Staveley Int N/P | 16-1 | |
| Greenwich Rte | 21-2 | Trade Indemnity N/P | 5 | |
| Headline Book (100p) | 123 | Westbury N/P | 12-2 | |
| HMCC | 8 | (Issue price in brackets) | | |
| Manchester Unit (500p) | 398-8 | | | |
| Morcor Group (125p) | 104-6 | | | |

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

| First Dealings | Last Dealings | Last Declaration | For Settlement |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Jun 10 | Jun 21 | Sep 12 | Sep 23 |

Call options were taken out on: 17/5/91 Brent Walker, ML Labs, Monument Oil & Gas, Nuclear Resources, Owners Abroad, Iremite, Peel Holdings, Salsig, Tusker, Wegman.

Unit: Northern

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 18 1991

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

skyns improves lower turnover

1711 clears Bass buy

oteus loses £1.5m

ICD to buy Limebrook

ite cut fad

Hanson keeps its ICI bid on ice

COMMENT

JOHN BELL

An early bid for ICI from Hanson is now looking increasingly unlikely. In fact I believe it is the last thing occupying the thoughts of Lord Hanson and White as they contemplate the future course of their investment in Britain's leading chemicals company.

Hanson's two founders did not bargain for the scale of the reaction in the month since they sent Smith New Court into the market to acquire a sizeable block of ICI shares. They feel that the bid fever that that high-profile purchase generated may prove counter-productive. They fear that ICI may be pressured by its advisers or City institutions into making questionable emergency moves which may damage the long-term prospects of the company.

This is no sudden conversion to altruism. It should instead be seen as a desire to make the most of what Hanson sees as a first-class opportunity for profitable involvement with a company at a turning point in its fortunes.

For example, the City has been pressing for a sale of ICI's star asset, its pharmaceuticals divi-

sion, in order to unlock some shareholder value, which is Citypeak for getting the share price up. Reams of stockbroker research has emerged in the past few weeks estimating that the pharmaceuticals operations could be sold for between £6 billion and £8 billion, compared with a market value for the whole group of around £9 billion.

Hanson's thinking lies in the opposite direction. ICI would benefit from a much more substantial presence in the fast-growing pharmaceuticals market to offset the more pedestrian and essentially cyclical parts of its operations. While ICI's home-grown drugs businesses produced around 40 per cent of group operating profits, the division is not a world player in its own right. Hanson's cash would enable ICI to think of acquisitions on a global scale.

Lords Hanson and White, both old friends of Sir James Goldsmith, have not been overly

impressed at the results of his moves to unlock shareholder value at BAT or the US tyre maker Goodyear. Sir James forced BAT to accelerate restructuring moves by the demerger of Wiggins Teape Appleton, the paper maker and its British retail company, Argos.

The benefits to BAT shareholders were immediate, but the jury remains out on the long-term effects. Initially BAT lost domestic earnings at a time when its financial services businesses were suffering a sharp downturn in profits. The result was a substantial problem of unrelieved advance corporation tax. Shorn of two substantial income sources, it is by no means clear that BAT's earnings stream is

now of higher quality than in the pre-Goldsmith days. Lords White and Hanson do not believe that ICI's restructuring should consist of selling the crown jewels or inventing poison pills which in the long run can prove life-threatening to their investors.

The two men have also not enjoyed the hostile reaction to the idea that Hanson might take control of what is effectively the British chemicals industry and the assumption in many quarters that they would then proceed to smash up ICI for a fast buck or three. Since they bought their ICI shares, an unholy alliance of both left- and right-wing opinion has ranged against them. Outside the City, where Hanson shares have served fund managers well as a

long-term holding, the group is still regarded as a skilful financial engineer and asset stripper rather than a builder of businesses.

Hanson's top men also accept that they would make vast political waves at a sensitive time for a government that they support if a bid were forthcoming before the election. In short, a bid for ICI is firmly on the back-burner.

The Hanson camp is emphatic that this was clearly spelled out to ICI's chairman Sir Denys Henderson and his senior colleagues when the two sides met shortly after the ICI shares were purchased. When pressed to say so publicly, however, Lord Hanson declined. He was well aware that a 12-month moratorium on a bid would have been imposed immediately by the takeover panel. While Lord Hanson is not minded to bid, he is also not inclined voluntarily to park himself on the sidelines for a year and forsake the freedom to

react to events. The future course of the Hanson/ICI affair now depends largely on ICI's board. Hanson feels that it has timed its move to coincide with the bottom of the chemicals industry cycle and that ICI profits will, after this year, be on a rising trend. But the record of the past few years is not impressive, even allowing for the cyclical nature of the industry. Hanson, like the rest of ICI's shareholders, awaits the outcome of the £300 million restructuring exercise now being finalised.

The shape and scope of this will probably prove to be the supreme test of Sir Denys's chairmanship. If there were lines of communication operating between Hanson's Grosvenor Place head office and the ICI headquarters in Millbank, they would be flashing two messages today. The revamp has to be good, addressing both the problems of dealing with ICI's weaker brethren and its star performers. More reassuringly, if it passes those tests, Hanson is minded to remain on the sidelines a while yet to see if the implementation matches the concept.

British cuts in interest rates suffer from the peseta pinch

THE German determination to crush inflation has, in the words of Professor Sir Alan Walters, "crucified on the peseta cross" other members of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

For justifiable domestic reasons, Madrid kept the monetary reins tight, making the peseta the strongest currency in the ERM, and raising the effective floor of other currencies in the system, preventing other members putting through interest rate cuts they wanted.

The French, when they wanted to counter economic slowdown, were most annoyed by this constraint on their monetary policy. Britain, too, felt the peseta pinch. The authorities had to wait for Spanish interest rates to ease before sanctioning lower domestic interest rates.

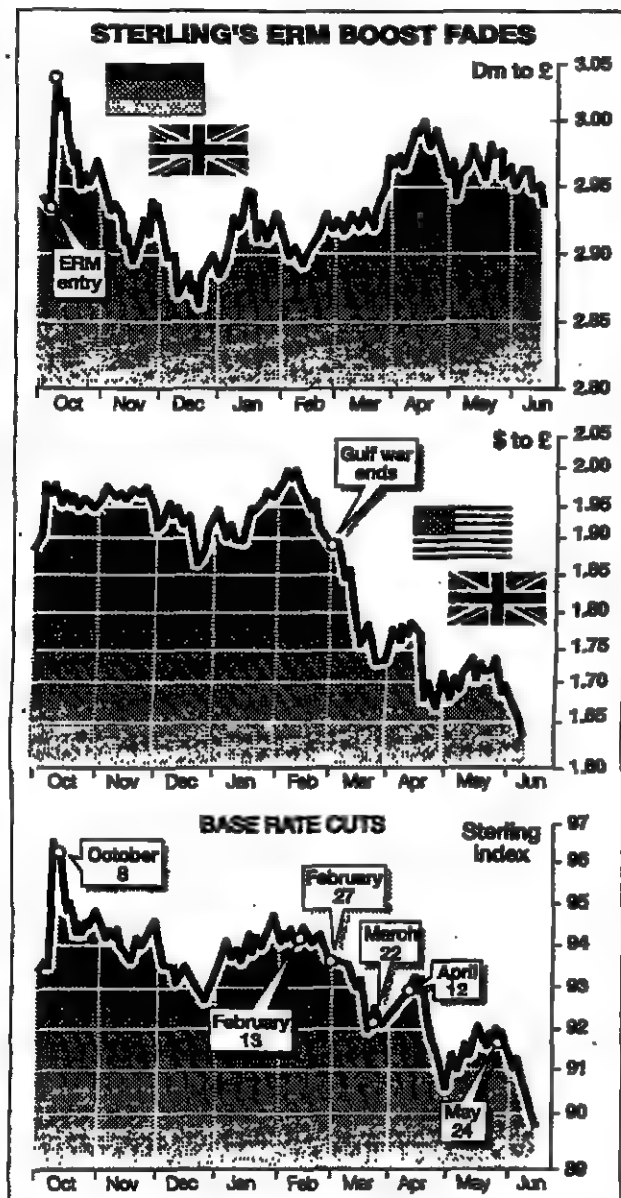
Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, might well have concurred privately with the interpretation of Sir Alan, Margaret Thatcher's former economic adviser and anti-ERM guru, that the ERM had delivered Britain into the hands of the Spanish central bank.

But the problem for Mr Lamont is that the foreign exchange markets have changed their view of the British economy and its political prospects. So he might not be able to take advantage of a falling peseta to make the rate cuts he would like to deliver.

Although attention was focused on the peseta last year, after sterling entered the ERM in October, it had dropped largely out of sight until the opinion polls, last month, started to show a persistent, substantial lead for Labour over the Conservatives.

With uncertainty over the political outlook, and the delayed economic recovery gaining hold in minds of the currency dealers, it was inevitable that the pound would come under renewed pressure, given the quick succession of half-point cuts in base rates since mid-February. The last cut came four weeks ago.

In spite of the clamour for fresh cuts from industry and politicians, maintaining sterling's position against the



mark, the ERM anchor unit, has become increasingly difficult, as the interest rate differential over the Germans was slashed from 5 percentage points to 2 points.

Hopes of early American recovery, which last week propelled the dollar to fresh heights against the mark, had previously given the pound a helpful lift, keeping sterling's trade-weighted index in a comfortable position.

This levitating effect of the dollar would appear to have vanished, as political doubts have come to the fore. The

problem for the pound is that if the electoral race looks very close, and a Labour government is seen as possibly devaluing the currency, there will be a strong disincentive to investors to hold sterling.

The bill for German unification, and the confused economic and political environment in Eastern Europe, are likely to keep the mark weak, but that is unlikely to help the pound from losing ground against the mark.

The scope for decline against the mark is considerable within the 6 per cent

fluctuation bands. The effective rate, at which both sides are obliged to intervene, was yesterday down to below DM2.86. If the rate were to go much below that, some currency analysts fear a serious run on the pound.

With sterling losing ground on two fronts, and not pivoting neatly between the ERM and dollar blocs, the trade-weighted index has come increasingly important among the Bank of England's concerns, especially as it is now back down to levels seen last summer. The fear for the government, with its commitment to making the deficit of inflation its prime objective, must be that to allow the pound to drift down too far and too long will bring higher import and raw material costs, pushing up core inflation.

Another cut in interest rates soon, as anticipated by the money markets last week, would narrow the interest rate differential with Germany even more and confirm to the foreign exchange dealers that policy is being driven politically, not by progress on inflation.

Last week's inflation data saw another sharp fall in annual inflation on the retail price index. Progress on underlying inflation has, however, failed to match the headline rate.

The peseta's slide, triggered on Friday by speculation that it was being put into narrow bands with the ERM, gave sterling bears the opportunity to sell pounds without risk of intervention.

Logic and the Spanish authorities' firm denial of an imminent move to tighter bands point to the peseta stabilising in the next few days, although some currency analysts are convinced that the market has made a more fundamental reappraisal. After buying into pesetas all year, dealers might be withdrawing more seriously, in fear, perhaps, that the "test of competitiveness" the government is seeking with the trade unions involves a deal on lower interest rates.

COLIN NARBROUGH
Economics Correspondent

Ferguson Lacey finds new faith in Mammon



Born-again businessman: Ferguson Lacey is back

STAND by for the return of Graham Ferguson Lacey, the born-again Christian and businessman.

Those whose memories stretch back to before Big Bang will recognise his name. New readers should start here. Mr Ferguson Lacey is one of that breed of business people who regularly attract adjectives such as "colourful" and "controversial". As befits such a person, he last caught the public gaze in the desert tent of Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, trying to free Terry Waite from captivity in Lebanon.

Last year, Mr Ferguson Lacey, who has long been based in America, moved into Nycal Corporation, a Nasdaq-listed energy stock. He is probably better known on these shores for a string of companies that ran into problems or foundered between 1978 and 1982, including Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust, his private holding company that went into receivership.

There followed a bedtempered struggle two years later to take over Lincroft Kilgour, the textile group, via John Fialan, Mr Ferguson Lacey's property vehicle, when his earlier record formed one of the planks of Lincroft's defence. Since then he has seldom been spotted in business circles.

Nycal has entered a string of deals since last summer that have taken it into oil and gas exploration in America and Australia and financial services, as well as an ill-fated attempt to take more than half the shares in Airship Industries before the latter went into receivership last September.

The latest deal saw the purchase of 35.1 per cent of Gulf Resources & Chemical Corporation, another American natural resources com-

pany, due to be completed at the end of this month.

In an earlier incarnation, Gulf, controlled by the twins David and Frederick Barclay, attracted attention for a failed £750 million bid for Imperial Continental Gas, then owner of Calor Gas. In October last year, Gulf bought a 9 per cent

holding in yet another oil company, the struggling Aviva Petroleum. Gulf and various other businesses are also faced with a potentially huge bill to clean up the land surrounding a defunct smelter in Idaho. It also has property interests in New Zealand.

The seller of the Gulf stake

was Inoco, an oil and property company of which David Rowland is deputy chairman. Under the complex deal, expected to be completed this month, once the necessary American regulatory hurdles are crossed Inoco is taking \$16 million cash and will end up with 28 per cent of Nycal.

David Hudd, the chairman of Inoco, said: "They made us what we regard as an attractive offer for our stake in Gulf Resources, and that's it as far as we're concerned."

Mr Hudd's deputy is not the first Rowland Mr Ferguson Lacey has had dealings with, although an earlier relationship with Tiny Rowland, head of Lonrho, was not a happy one.

During one of those bitter wrangles in which Lonrho seems to specialise, when Mr Ferguson Lacey was reported to be considering a bid for Lonrho, Tiny Rowland coined the memorable phrase "financial pygmy" for his opponent.

Nycal, a strong performer on Nasdaq in recent months, raised \$6 million from several unnamed European institutions in April.

Before Inoco, its only known involvement in Britain was its control of Shepherd Insurance Group, a holding company owning insurance brokers and agencies here and in Canada.

Mr Ferguson Lacey started out as a paint and wallpaper salesman in his native Midlands. A born-again Christian, his rise to fortune, curtailed by business reverses, was followed by a third career as a southern baptist minister and evangelist, hence the Terry Waite connection. Now he is back in the land of Mammon, promising "the continued growth of Nycal".

MARTIN WALLER

BAA flight plan focuses on core business

ONE either accepts that by the year 2005, 120 million people will be using London airports, or one does not buy shares in BAA, the company that runs many of Britain's airports.

BAA's ever-rising passenger projection graph enables followers to forgive sins that would find lesser companies out. Gulf wars, recessions, property slumps... all can be dismissed as temporary blips on an otherwise steadily rising sales curve.

When three blips coincide in the same year, however, even BAA has to take notice. For the first time in ten years, full-year pre-tax profits fell - by 4 per cent to £247 million. The damage to the medium-term profits record was done specifically by a £37 million provision against the value of the property portfolio of Lynton, the property company bought for £220 million in 1988.

BAA's normally strong cashflow had already been undermined by war and recession, which collectively limited the increase in passenger traffic to just 0.2 per cent.

This three-corned hit has done shareholders no harm. BAA's policy of basing dividend payments on earnings over five years has resulted in a final dividend of 7.75p (7p), making 13p (11.5p).

One suspects it has not harmed Sir John Egan, now one year into his role as chief executive, either. With property markets collapsing and the hotel market under pressure, Sir John has the perfect excuse for refocusing BAA on its core business - running airports.

Accordingly, BAA's two non-airport hotels are already for sale while up to half of Lynton's £450 million property portfolio will be sold as and when the property market recovers. That should go some way to keeping a cap on ear-

ning, currently 56 per cent, but always under pressure from the company's long-term development plans. Standed may be complete, but Terminal 5 at Heathrow and the Heathrow-Paddington express rail link are already looming large.

Despite the end of the Gulf war, the continuing recession means that any take-off in profits will be significantly delayed. Smith New Court estimates that pre-tax profits could ascend gently to £265 million in the current year. At 44p, the shares are on a price/earnings multiple just over 11. A buy, on the expectation that travellers will be making twice as many flights in 2005 as they did in 1990.

What Mr Clark offers as a carrot of faith is a maintained final dividend of 9p, making 13.25p for the year (13p). BET promised in February that the dividend would be held and, but for that, it would not have been surprising if the final was cut. Net earnings fell from 28.5p to 18.5p a share.

BET's masterplan is likely to take up to two years to implement fully. At least gearing is down from 122 per cent at September 29 to 35 per cent, and the mission goals have been clearly identified - to tackle costs, debt and gearing, increase earnings, and turn BET from a holding into an operating company.

A more strategic review of all operations to ensure that

each generates real cash and makes higher returns is yet to be revealed, and in the short term time may not be on BET's side.

Arresting the slide of a group in the face of a recession that has not yet run its course is not easy, and a current year's pre-tax outcome of about £200 million for net earnings of 16p a share would not surprise. If profits do not rise, however, it cannot be assumed that dividends will be held.

Currently, BET is the highest yielding share in the FT-SE 100 at 10.2 per cent, and for income the shares have their attractions. The faith in Mr Clark is illustrated by the prospective p/e of 10.9.

BET

RARELY have the investment hopes and reputation of one group rested so heavily on the shoulders of one man.

The company is BET, which after market disquiet about its direction saw its share price tumble from 275p to 99p between July 1990 and February. The man is John Clark, the chief executive brought into BET in April with a mission to put the group back on course.

The investment question is not what went wrong to send pre-tax profits sliding from £322 million to £217 million in the year to end-March - BET's first drop in pre-tax profit for ten years - but how long it will take Mr Clark to fulfil his mission.

Admitting why BET went wrong is a first step on the road to restoring BET's investment following. There were combined faults - high debt and costs, too heavy capital spending, too many delays in digesting previous years' acquisitions, all compounded by the recession.

SCOTTISH ELECTRICITY HOTLINE HYDRO-ELECTRIC AND SCOTTISH POWER

Real-time share prices
(from 2.30 pm)

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FIMBRA

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Birthday bash for Bloom

TONY Bloom, the South African millionaire who moved to London three years ago, knows how to celebrate in style. Bloom, who was chairman and chief executive of Premier Group, one of South Africa's largest diversified food groups, is throwing a party in Spencer House, London, next month to celebrate his wife Gisela's 50th birthday. Hundreds of guests are due at the bash, which will include a private performance of Verdi's *Falstaff* by the Pimlico Opera Company. The stately venue, which overlooks Green Park, is the family home of the Princess of Wales. Bloom and John Richardson, formerly Alan Bond's man in London, were part of the new management team installed at Sketchley, the dry-cleaner, in April last year.

Pedaleers power

AMONG the 35,000 or so cyclists who took part in the London-to-Brighton race on Sunday was a sizeable contingent from Kleinwort Benson, including a barmy team of venture capitalists led by Barry Dean. Perhaps there was a hidden motive in their efforts. For Madison, one of the companies in which KB has taken a stake, is a bicycle distributor. "It's what you call supporting shareholders," says Ian Grant, a fellow team member. The award for most heroic performance went to Ryan Fayed of Yamaichi International, who limped home minus a mudguard, saddle and pedal.

Mounted march

SIR Siegmund Warburg, founder of SG Warburg, would be a proud man were he alive today. Netty Warburg, married to Eric, a cousin of Sir Siegmund, is planning a 13-mile mounted march on

horseback, on July 21, to help the Royal Marsden Hospital's £25 million cancer appeal. Last summer, Netty, a grandmother in her sixties, raised more than £130,000, partly by leading a team of sponsored climbers, the Earl of Limerick and Lady Limerick among them, up the Matterhorn. The funds have paid for a ward for recuperating patients, to be known as The Matterhorn Ward to commemorate her work.

Ghost trade

SOME of the older hands at Quilter Goodison were intrigued to learn that Bawdsey Manor on the Suffolk coast has come on the market. The property, a curious mixture of Elizabethan, Tudor and Gothic styles, was, it seems, built by Sir Cuthbert Quilter, a former senior partner known for his colourful, not to mention bad-tempered, ways. The 150-acre estate became famous as the place where Robert Watson-Watt experimented

with radar. Legend has it that among the first images to appear on the flickering screen was the figure of an angry old man waving a stick...

Follow on

IAN Collier's move from James Capel Gilts to Midland Montagu has set other wheels in motion, it would seem. Collier, a former Capel partner, left last week to set up a bond options department at Midland Montagu. It now emerges that David Crofts and Eric Felstead, both salesmen at James Capel Gilts, have left the firm "by mutual consent". Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the parent group of Capel, took over the gilts team in December and has been keen to reorganise. "This is a positive move since it helps us with economies of scale," says David Gelber, the managing director of the gilts division.

JON ASHWORTH

The
two
Scottish
electricity
companies
share
offers



ALLOCATION ANNOUNCEMENT



HYDRO-ELECTRIC

Offers for Sale

by



ScottishPower

Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited

and

The British Linen Bank Limited

on behalf of

The Secretary of State for Scotland

Both of the Offers for Sale have been over-subscribed and shares have been recalled from the Overseas Offers and from institutional investors. Valid applications from persons applying with customer and non-customer preference will be met as set out below. Due to heavy demand, no shares are being allocated to persons applying without preference.

DEALINGS

Dealings are expected to commence in London at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 June, 1991 and Interim Certificates are expected to be sent to applicants allocated shares under the Offers for Sale on or before Monday, 24 June, 1991. Applicants who wish to sell before they have received Interim Certificates will only be able to do so if they make arrangements to deal on this basis. Applicants who deal before receipt of Interim Certificates will do so at the risk of selling shares for which they have not received an allocation. Persons who applied for the package of shares in the two Scottish electricity companies should note that, as a result of applications which have been made by customers, employees and pensioners of the companies for shares in their own company only, allocations of shares to package applicants have not been made in the same proportion as that in which applications were invited.

SHARES ALLOCATED TO PERSONS APPLYING WITH CUSTOMER PREFERENCE

| Customers of Scottish Hydro-Electric plc | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Hydro-Electric only | | Package of shares | | | | |
| Shares applied for | Shares allocated | Total shares applied for | Hydro-Electric | | ScottishPower | |
| | | | Shares applied for | Shares allocated | Shares applied for | Shares allocated |
| 100 | 100 | 300 | 96 | 96 | 204 | 160 |
| 200 | 200 | 400 | 128 | 128 | 272 | 175 |
| 300 | 300 | 500 | 160 | 160 | 340 | 175 |
| 400 | 400 | 600 | 192 | 192 | 408 | 200 |
| 500 | 500 | 700 | 224 | 224 | 476 | 200 |
| 600 | 600 | 800 | 256 | 256 | 544 | 230 |
| 700 | 700 | 900 | 288 | 288 | 612 | 230 |
| 800 | 800 | 1,000 | 320 | 320 | 680 | NIL |
| 900 | 900 | 1,500 | 480 | 480 | 1,020 | NIL |
| 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 640 | 640 | 1,360 | NIL |
| 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,500 | 800 | 800 | 1,700 | NIL |
| 2,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 960 | 960 | 2,040 | NIL |
| 2,500-30,000 | 2,000 | 4,000 | 1,280 | 1,280 | 2,720 | NIL |
| | | 5,000 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 3,400 | NIL |
| 35,000 and above | NIL | 10,000 | 3,200 | 2,000 | 6,800 | NIL |
| | | 15,000-90,000 | 4,800-28,800 | 2,000 | 10,200-61,200 | NIL |
| | | 100,000 and above | 32,000 and above | NIL | 68,000 and above | NIL |

| Customers of Scottish Power plc | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| ScottishPower only | | Package of shares | | | | |
| Shares applied for | Shares allocated | Total shares applied for | Hydro-Electric | | ScottishPower | |
| | | | Shares applied for | Shares allocated | Shares applied for | Shares allocated |
| 100 | 100 | 300 | 96 | 90 | 204 | 204 |
| 200 | 200 | 400 | 128 | 95 | 272 | 272 |
| 300 | 300 | 500 | 160 | 95 | 340 | 340 |
| 400 | 400 | 600 | 192 | 105 | 408 | 408 |
| 500 | 500 | 700 | 224 | 105 | 476 | 476 |
| 600 | 600 | 800 | 256 | 120 | 544 | 544 |
| 700 | 700 | 900 | 288 | 120 | 612 | 612 |
| 800 | 800 | 1,000 | 320 | NIL | 680 | 680 |
| 900 | 900 | 1,500 | 480 | NIL | 1,020 | 1,020 |
| 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 640 | NIL | 1,360 | 1,360 |
| 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,500 | 800 | NIL | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| 2,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 960 | NIL | 2,040 | 2,000 |
| 2,500-30,000 | 2,000 | 4,000 | 1,280 | NIL | 2,720 | 2,000 |
| | | 5,000 | 1,600 | NIL | 3,400 | 2,000 |
| 35,000 and above | NIL | 10,000 | 3,200 | NIL | 6,800 | 2,000 |
| | | 15,000-40,000 | 4,800-12,800 | NIL | 10,200-27,200 | 2,000 |
| | | 45,000 and above | 14,400 and above | NIL | 30,600 and above | NIL |

SHARES ALLOCATED TO PERSONS APPLYING WITH NON-CUSTOMER PREFERENCE

| Shares applied for | Total shares allocated | Comprising shares in | |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | | Hydro-Electric | ScottishPower |
| 300 | 250 | 90 | 160 |
| 400 | 270 | 95 | 175 |
| 500 | 270 | 95 | 175 |
| 600 | 305 | 105 | 200 |
| 700 | 305 | 105 | 200 |
| 800 | 350 | 120 | 230 |
| 900 | 350 | 120 | 230 |
| 1,000 and above | NIL | NIL | NIL |

ALLOCATIONS TO EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS

| | Hydro-Electric (shares in Hydro-Electric) | ScottishPower (shares in ScottishPower) | Scottish Nuclear (shares in ScottishPower) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Free and Matching Offers | in full | in full | in full |
| Employee Discount and Priority Offers | in full | in full | in full |
| Pensioner Priority Offers | in full | in full | in full |

Note 1. Persons applying with customer preference are individuals for whose benefit a valid application was made for the customer share bonus or electricity vouchers together with, in either case, customer preference. Persons applying with non-customer preference are individuals for whose benefit a valid application was made for the non-customer share bonus together with non-customer preference. References to applications are to applications which have not been rejected.
Note 2. The Secretary of State has authorised voucher entitlements of £18 in respect of eligible customers of Hydro-Electric who chose vouchers and who have been allocated 96 shares. All allocations are subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Prospectus dated 30 May, 1991 and in the Mini Prospectus.

Issued by HM Government and approved by Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited and The British Linen Bank Limited, members of TSA and joint financial advisers to HM Government for the electricity privatisation in Scotland.
The value of shares can go down as well as up. If you need advice, consult an appropriate professional adviser.

ScottishPower
imited
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a heavy demand, no

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Coin or share |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Cookson | Industrials A-D | |
| 2 | Smith & Nephew | Industrials S-Z | |
| 3 | Allied Irish | Bank & Finance | |
| 4 | Laporte | Chemicals, Plastics | |
| 5 | Burroughs | Oil, Gas | |
| 6 | Brent Walker | Leisure | |
| 7 | Vaux Group | Property | |
| 8 | P & O Ltd | Transport | |
| 9 | Perpetuum | Building, Roads | |
| 10 | Unilever | Food | |
| 11 | Avon | Industrials A-D | |
| 12 | ROC | Industrials A-D | |
| 13 | James Watson | Electronics | |
| 14 | Woolwich | Leisure | |
| 15 | Alfred Lyons | Chemicals | |
| 16 | Johnson Matthey | Industrials E-K | |
| 17 | ACT Group | Electronics | |
| 18 | Boddington | Breweries | |
| 19 | Brinkley | Industrials A-D | |
| 20 | Waco | Paper, Print, Adv | |
| 21 | Odyssey-Schep | Food | |
| 22 | Portals | Industrials L-R | |
| 23 | Wellcome | Industrials S-Z | |
| 24 | Wetherby & D | Breweries | |
| 25 | Morgan Cole | Industrials L-R | |
| 26 | Control TV | Leisure | |
| 27 | Lot Service | Motor, Aircraft | |
| 28 | Redland | Building, Roads | |
| 29 | Polyprop | Industrials L-R | |
| 30 | Slade | Industrials S-Z | |
| 31 | Taco | Industrials E-K | |
| 32 | Hawker Siddeley | Industrials S-Z | |
| 33 | Towers | Textiles | |
| 34 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 35 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 36 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 37 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 38 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 39 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 40 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 41 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 42 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 43 | Avon | Leisure | |
| 44 | Avon | Leisure | |

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | | | | | | |

There were no valid claims for yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

UNDATED

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

INDEX-LINKED

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Lack of direction

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end June 28. Settlement day July 1. Settlement day July 8.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BREWERIES

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

BUILDING, ROADS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

ELECTRICITY

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

FINANCE, LAND

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

FOODS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

DRAPERY, STORES

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

ELECTRICALS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

INDUSTRIALS A-D

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

INDUSTRIALS E-K

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

INDUSTRIALS L-R

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

LEISURE

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

MINING

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

OILS, GAS

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

PROPERTY

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

SHOES, LEATHER

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

TEXTILES

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

TOBACCO

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
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| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

TRANSPORT

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
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| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

WATER

| 1991 | High | Low | Open | Close | % Chg |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 100 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |

Portfolio PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND

£4,000

Claims required for +38 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Delayed injustice? Gerard Conlon, of the Guildford Four, after his acquittal. Charges against detectives have been dismissed because of the time lapse

Justice passes its use-by date

Abuse of process, whereby cases are dismissed because of the time lapse before prosecution, should be better defined, Richard Gordon writes

Charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice 17 years ago, brought against three detectives in the Guildford Four case, were dismissed last week on the ground of abuse of process. Ronald Bartle, the Bow Street stipendiary magistrate, said the lapse of time in bringing the prosecution was likely to cause prejudice to the accused men.

A detective in the case died in 1984, those taking part in the interviews had no clear memory of the events, and detectives' diaries were destroyed after three years — these factors seem to have influenced the dismissal of the charges. Comment on the case is inappropriate as an appeal is being brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions. The case is, however, a timely reminder of how topical abuse of process has become.

Delay in starting proceedings has

not traditionally been a concern of magistrates, unless there is failure to comply with a statutory time limit. An exception was made where the prosecution had abused court procedure by deliberate delay. However, since the early Eighties the High Court has ruled in several cases that substantial delay by the prosecution that might lead to prejudice to a defendant would entitle the justices to dismiss for abuse of process.

Lord Dilhorne's spectre of magistrates reaching inconsistent decisions on similar facts materialised in the Wapping cases.

In January 1987, the News International dispute erupted into serious violence involving about 15,000 demonstrators and 1,200 police officers, and there were a number of arrests. More than 500 complaints of police misconduct were made, but it was not until January 1989 that any summonses were served.

Mr Bartle was asked in May 1989 to rule on whether a prosecution against six officers, in such circumstances, alleging conspiracy to pervert justice, was an abuse of process. He

held that it was and dismissed the charges. In similar proceedings brought in the same month before Geoffrey Wicks, another metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, PC Russell Cherry was charged with unlawful wounding in an arrest during the 1987 Wapping demonstration. PC Cherry argued that the prosecution was an abuse of process but, after hearing legal argument, Mr Wicks ruled that the prosecution delay was justified and that there would have to be a trial.

The fact that inconsistent decisions could be reached by different magistrates on substantially similar prosecution delay is a matter of concern. On December 19, 1989, however, the High Court dismissed the appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions against Mr Bartle's decision and allowed that of PC Cherry.

However, in ruling that there was an abuse of process in permitting either prosecution to continue, the High Court introduced a hitherto unstated element into the doctrine. Whereas

previously there had to be excessive delay and the likelihood of prejudice, Lord Justice Watkins said that, in some circumstances, prejudice would be presumed from substantial delay and it was for the prosecution to rebut such presumption.

The public interest surely requires alleged offenders to be brought to trial unless there is manifest unfairness. To concentrate, as the High Court did in Wapping, on asking whether delay is justified, with the inevitable overtones of punishing prosecutors, diverts attention from the main issue of whether there can be a fair trial.

The High Court must clarify the scope of the abuse of process jurisdiction. It would be helpful to have an authoritative ruling from the House of Lords on whether magistrates have such jurisdiction at all.

Prosecuting authorities are left wondering whether they should invest public money in proceedings that, having started slowly, may be rejected as an abuse of process, or whether they should abdicate responsibility for such prosecutions. It would be ironic if a doctrine of abuse of process exculpated offenders themselves charged with abusing the process of the law. Would abuse of process not then lead to abuse of justice?

The author is a practising barrister and the author of Crown Office Proceedings, published by Sweet & Maxwell in December 1990

Hit and myth damage cases

LORD Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has praised the Law Commission's fundamental review of the law of damages, which acknowledges that compensation levels need attention, particularly in personal injury and fatal claims. His praise is timely and welcome.

I find it hard, however, to reconcile his view that courts need "the greatest possible variety of remedies" with the Law Commission's bravely stated aim of applying "a more rational basis" to the principles, mechanisms and effectiveness of damages awards. In his positive reference to structured settlements as one of six areas of examination, Lord Mackay might have pointed the commission towards the right approach to rationalisation. The structured settlement comes from an unlikely source — the United States, where it is a regular feature. Here,

perhaps, is evidence that contrary to widely held transatlantic paranoia, Britain can learn from many sensible aspects of the American legal system without the risk of undermining society as we know it or sending insurance premiums through the roof.

In Britain, the flexible structuring of damages is gathering pace because it avoids the defects of lump-sum payments by guaranteeing an injured plaintiff proper income for life while actually costing insurers less. That would be a rational compromise. But structures depend on the agreement of both sides and cannot be imposed by the court. As Mr Justice Roper remarked in the case of *PH* last year, "May I say that I have absolutely no hesitation not only in approving the settlement but in giving it blessing? The sooner it is possible to award damages on this less infinitely hit-and-miss basis, the better."

Punitive (exemplary) damages also have transatlantic overtones. There is no need for alarm. Last March, the US Supreme Court held that punitive damage awards do not offend the American constitution. Research shows that such awards can be as low as 2 per cent, on average less than \$500,000 (about £300,000), and are subject to judicial control.

Punitive awards by juries for flagrant misconduct — reckless indifference to safety or concealment of the dangers of an unsafe product — undoubtedly have a deterrent effect that has done much to promote consumer safety in the US. With this in mind, the commission should support the extension of exemplary damages beyond the narrow limits of *H v MoD*, March 1991 (Court of Appeal), in which the

narrow construction of "exceptional" also denied the plaintiff trial by jury in a personal injury case.

The law, however, permits a jury in an exceptional personal injury case. A deterrent punitive award could be justified in a disaster case if there is flagrant misconduct, with the damages possibly going towards safety research.

If there is room for the commission to recommend positive reform in all these areas, there is also some room for worry about the risk of reduction of damages. Reminiscent of the new provisions which "claw back" social security payments, thought is to be given to "deduction and set-offs against monetary loss". The combined effect of recent legislation and case law now ensures the deduction of all types of state benefit following injury or death. I find it difficult to imagine what remains to be deducted, apart from the plaintiff's self-funded private benefits, which should continue to have protection.

Another anxiety is the proposed look at medical and nursing expenses, for many years calculated on a private-cost basis. If compensation does not include the cost of 24-hour private nursing care of a catastrophically injured plaintiff, from where else will it come? Problems with the community care programme for the mentally ill suggest that any hope of the NHS funding home-based nursing care for seriously injured plaintiffs is unrealistic. Any attempt to deny injured accident victims the damages they require for essential medical care could be the thin end of a nasty wedge.

Commercial considerations also lurk behind the idea that in multi-party (group) cases, an award of damages could be made to all plaintiffs. Abandonment of the right of plaintiffs to have their cases assessed and valued on its individual merits should not be the price to pay for membership of a group. The fair and flexible conduct of group litigation will be lost if a corporate defendant can rid itself of a group action by paying a global sum to satisfy all plaintiffs.

The most debated, most emotional compensation issue is bereavement damages. The commission would do well to consider the proposal in Lawrence Combs' unsuccessful bill. Nobody can accurately value loss of a life, but even the recently raised figure of £7,500 is rejected as too low by many relatives, quite apart from those relatives who do not qualify at all.

The author is a partner in Pannone Napier and Irwin Mitchell and is the secretary of the Association of Personal Injury lawyers



BRIEF
MICHAEL
NAPIER

New computers are forcing lawyers in appeal court cases to move faster

LAWYERS who fail to lodge their papers in time for civil actions in the Court of Appeal may find their case struck out of the lists — by computer. The £500,000 computer has taken over the task of managing the 950 appeals pending at any one time.

Managing the appeals is part of a £20 million computerising programme being undertaken by the Lord Chancellor's department. Management and listing of its cases in Guildford crown court has just been computerised, and by the end of the year, all courts on the Western and Midland circuits will follow suit. By mid-1993, it is planned that every crown court in England and Wales will be covered.

Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, says the computer, known as Recap, means that

Big Brother may strike you off

management of cases is now "judge-driven", instead of being left to the parties to decide themselves. He says: "Before, when it was convenient to the parties, they told the courts they would like to have the case tried. Now we assess the urgency of the action and insist they have the papers by a certain date, on pain of having the action struck out."

The computer has other functions. Already, Lord Donaldson says, "it has been telling us to what extent the need for parties to obtain leave to appeal is weeding out hopeless

appeals, thereby saving wasted costs and expediting the hearing of other appeals which have a fair chance of succeeding."

"If we could knock out 10 per cent of appeals, it would make a dramatic difference to waiting times."

If successful, the new computer system in the appeal court's civil division may be extended next to the criminal appeals lists. Beyond that, officials will consider whether it should be extended to cover cases in the High Court and even county courts.

John Adams, the registrar of

civil appeals, says that as well as being able to tell what stage a case is at and what documents have been lodged, the computer has a further role. "It will produce reports of cases where bundles are overdue and not lodged and it scans the bundles and lists where they have been lodged, but are defective and have not been put right quickly," Mr Adams says. "It will then issue formal letters notifying the appellants that the case is listed for dismissal."

The parties then have a chance to come before the appeal court and argue why the case should not be struck from the lists, he says.

Lord Donaldson predicts, however, that in the future, "sons of Recap will take over and woe betide the litigant or adviser who drags his feet".

FRANCES GIBB

The bill of few rights

IN THE same week that Labour's deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, came out in favour of a bill of rights, Hong Kong was this month enjoying the first week of its long-discussed bill of rights.

One member of the Hong Kong legislative council observed that it had had almost the same gestation period as an African elephant. Others obviously found the wait too much — at one stage, the debate on the bill had to be suspended because there was no longer a quorum in the chamber, and messengers had to be sent to persuade members out of the bars and buffets.

The bill is seen as a serious issue, not least because the final version is far weaker than many had hoped and will give scant protection against human rights abuses after China takes over from the United Kingdom in 1997. China's Basic Law includes a provision that enables it to amend any incompatible legislation. The final interpretation of the bill will rest with the Peking regime.

Paper chase

THE Lord Chancellor's department has produced a

INNS AND OUTS

checklist for litigants in the High Court and the Court of Appeal because of concern at the frequency with which solicitors or clerks turn up at offices in the Royal Courts of Justice without the right papers.

The checklist, which gives guidance to solicitors and the public in completing legal forms, costs £2.

Keith Topley, the senior master, said that as solicitors' overheads increased, they were tending to send out younger and more inexperienced staff as outdoor clerks. These clerks would spend time queuing at the various offices in the Royal Courts of Justice, only to be told that they had come with incomplete documentation.

No thanks

BEING linked with a controversial biography can be a double-edged sword. Milton Rudin, a Los Angeles lawyer, was furious when he saw that he was one of the 100 people thanked by Kitty Kelley for help in researching her biography of Nancy Reagan, which alleged, among other things, that Mrs Reagan and Frank Sinatra had a relationship. Mr Rudin, Sinatra's lawyer for 30 years, has issued a writ against Ms Kelley, claiming she defamed him by implying that he is happy to tell all about his clients.

Money in debt

KING'S College, London, has launched an insolvency research unit, with the backing — financial and intellectual — of Cork Gully, a leading firm of insolvency practitioners.

Harry Rajack, a barrister and senior lecturer at King's



school of law, is to be director of the new unit.

Meanwhile, with an eye, perhaps, to the opening-up of the higher courts to solicitors, Nottingham law school has created what it describes as the "first chair in litigation".

Iain Goldrein, a barrister, has been appointed the Sir Jack Jacob visiting professor of litigation to oversee the creation of advanced practical litigation courses for solicitors.

Bar move

NEWSPAPER lawyers are the latest to challenge the Bar's rules that stop employed barristers from appearing in court. There was the challenge

lodged on behalf of government barristers by the treasury solicitor, James Nursaw, QC, and the director of public prosecutions, Sir Allan Green, QC; now the Fleet Street Lawyers' Society has written to the Lord Chancellor, seeking a relaxation of the Bar rules so that employed barristers can appear in High Court libel actions.

The position of solicitors in newspaper offices is already covered by the Law Society's own application for wider rights of audience for employed solicitors.

Fit to plead

THE private members' bill reforming the law on insanity and unfitness to plead drafted late last year by the Law Society and presented to Parliament by the Law Society and John Greenway, the Conservative member for Ryedale, late last year, is likely soon to become law, having gone through the Commons and having just had its second reading in the Lords.

The bill will correct the position whereby a declaration of unfitness to plead results in automatic indefinite detention in mental hospitals, regardless of whether any offence has been committed.

The court's powers are extended by the bill and in future courts will be able to make a range of orders, including an absolute discharge.

SCRIVENOR



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Performance at Interview

There is something slightly artificial about an interview. Two lawyers, usually complete strangers to one another, shake hands, make themselves comfortable in a well-appointed office, drink coffee together, and then launch into a one-sided interrogation which would hardly be countenanced even between close friends. The candidate, under a series of sharp and probing questions, reveals intimate details about his or her educational attainments, social activities, career aims, and marital status. And throughout this ordeal, the candidate must manifest a warm, open and relaxed attitude, as if the two of them were engaged in a friendly inside chat. Some people adapt quite easily to the interview situation. Many others, however, by nature more reserved, feel wary about revealing too much of themselves. When asked, "What grades were your O Levels?" or "What is your father's occupation?", they can't help but bridle with the feeling that such questions are irrelevant and, indeed, impertinent. This reluctance to open up to what the interviewer regards as a necessary line of questioning will frequently bring the interview to a rapid and unfavourable conclusion. An opportunity - which may have been ideal - is lost. It is important that candidates appreciate the artificiality of the interview routine. They must play the game. They must bring themselves to accept that the standard rules of social intercourse are suspended, and that questions which would normally be regarded as impertinent are to be welcomed as legitimate. For a brief period, the inquisitive stranger interviewing you must be treated as a friend.

Michael Chambers

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Buddy, can you spare a mime?

A hard-up mime theatre company has been one of the groups to benefit from the support of firms with a conscience. Edward Fennell reports

A company of mime artists is one of many worthy causes reaping the benefits of City law firms imitating their corporate clients by sponsoring community action. Turner Kenneth Brown (TKB) sponsored the Trestle Theatre Company, an innovative group from north London, which tells stories in masks with mime, when the group was in danger of being wound up due to lack of funds. Under the leadership of a partner, Stuart Benson, TKB has devised a package of activities and sponsorships that reflect its identity as a firm and benefit the community.

There is bound to be some element of public relations about this corporate activity, but the firm regards it primarily as a way of putting something back into the community. TKB also sponsors the Thames Valley European Information Centre in Reading, Berkshire, where it has a branch office. Trestle is far removed from the Royal Opera House or Royal Shakespeare Company; nor does it put on the sort of performances most accountants or bankers would be likely to attend. On the contrary, it would be seen by most sponsors as rather risky.

Mr Benson says: "We were so

impressed by the company and what they were doing that we became very keen to support them even though they were very unconventional." As it turned out, Trestle went from strength to strength and could now survive without the firm. "But we have developed a marvellous relationship with them and were pleased that we helped them at a crucial period in their development." Trestle actors feature in a recruitment brochure for TKB and the theatre company occasionally performs at the firm.

An advance guard of firms now recognises that size imposes responsibility

The City law firm, Freshfields, achieved a unique distinction last week when it became the first solicitors' practice to receive a Dragon Award for work in the community. The award, made annually by the Lord Mayor of London, was given in recognition of the firm's work in providing legal advice to residents in Tower Hamlets, east London.

Freshfields is not the first to give such a service. But the scale and form of the undertaking is an important landmark for law firms as they seek to become good corporate citizens.

There are big partnerships in the City which still regard themselves as little more than a collection of sole practitioners. Nonetheless, as the



Brief encounter: the Trestle Theatre Company, sponsored by TKB

Freshfields example shows, there is now an advance guard of London firms which recognise that their size and wealth imposes responsibilities which must be fulfilled corporately rather than just individually.

There are now five law firms — Nabarro Nathanson, D. J. Freeman, Turner Kenneth Brown, Baileys Shaw & Gillett and Freshfields — which are members of Business in the Community, the charity set up to encourage more community involvement by employers. This involves them in giving a minimum of £5,000 worth of advice (at cost prices) each year to help community action by businesses.

Linklaters is another firm which has developed a strong policy on what it calls "good citizenship" to complement an internal culture which

supports charitable activity. The firm has a give-as-you-earn scheme.

James Wyness, the new senior partner at Linklaters, acknowledges a distinction between the good works often undertaken voluntarily by individuals, and the more considered strategic contributions a firm makes.

Earlier this year, TKB won a government award under the Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme for its work with Trestle. Individual voluntary activity, however commendable, would probably not have achieved so much. The Trestle experience shows some things can only be done on a corporate basis. Firms which leave everything to individual action are missing an opportunity.

Business in the Community may be contacted through Caroline Clark on 071-253 3716

The lawyer who courted stardom

Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz (left) is the envy of American lawyers. James D. Zirin looks at the man behind the hype



The most talked about lawyer in America is Alan Dershowitz, a short, mustachioed Harvard Law School professor from Brooklyn. While most of his colleagues are content to teach and write occasional articles, Mr Dershowitz has the legal establishment agog.

The lawyers are impressed by his success in defending prominent individuals such as Claus von Bulow, the millionaire acquitted of murder, Leona Helmsley, the New York hotel proprietor, Harry Reems, the pornographic film star, and Jim Bakker, the evangelist.

Mr Dershowitz's prodigious self-promotion skills have also staggered his colleagues. No wonder his latest book is called *Chutzpah*, a character trait Mr Dershowitz proudly accepts.

Mr Dershowitz's greatest success was the reversal he won for von Bulow, who stood convicted of two attempts to murder his millionaire wife, Martha "Sunny" von Bulow, by insulin injection. Von Bulow, it was alleged, wanted to leave his wife for his mistress, Alexandra Isles, but would obtain virtually no money in a divorce. If Sunny died before him, however, von Bulow could inherit millions to maintain his grand lifestyle.

Von Bulow was sentenced to ten years in prison. Mr Dershowitz won a reversal for von Bulow on the technical ground that there had been an illegal search and seizure by a private detective hired by von Bulow's stepchildren.

The detective, rummaging through von Bulow's study and closet, found a small bag containing a hypodermic needle, which revealed the presence of insulin. The appellate court ordered a new trial, in which von Bulow, represented by another lawyer, won an acquittal. But it was Mr Dershowitz who achieved public identification with von Bulow's success in court.

Mr Dershowitz obtained von Bulow's permission to write a book, *Reversal of Fortune*, about the appeal. This told the von Bulow story as though Mr Dershowitz were the central figure and von Bulow had a walk-on role. A review in *The New York Times* observed that there is a "self-congratulation that perfumes the book from beginning to end". The book's publisher, Random House, honoured Mr Dershowitz and von Bulow with a midnight champagne toast, but the book was not a bestseller.

The book had to become a film. *Reversal of Fortune* starred Jeremy Irons as von Bulow, Glenn Close as Sunny and Ron Silver as Mr Dershowitz and was co-produced by Mr Dershowitz's son, Mr Dershowitz himself came a cameo appearance as one of the justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Since the von Bulow case, Mr Dershowitz has taken on another sideline, the writing of what he terms "incisive, even riveting prefaces" to leather-bound books, which reprint accounts of notable trials such as those of Oscar Wilde, and Mary, Queen of Scots.

The books are offered by mail order. The subscriber, says the blurb, will be guided through the contradictions and anomalies of the celebrated cases by "our Editor-in-Chief, Alan M. Dershowitz" whose "power to put into simple, non-technical language the relevance and ramifications of a given case, is without parallel".

The prominent clients keep coming. Mr Dershowitz recently received high marks from lawyers who heard him argue the appeal in the tax evasion case of Ms Helmsley.

He also won a sentencing of Bakker because the judge had remarked that "those of us who do have religion are sick of being saps for money-grabbing preachers".

All this success has won Mr Dershowitz his share of detractors, but his public relations juggernaut moves on. Now that Jeremy Irons has won an academy award, the public may believe Mr Dershowitz to be the most celebrated criminal trial lawyer in America.

The author is a litigator at Bred, Abbott and Morgan, a New York law firm

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Court of Appeal

Law Report June 18 1991

Chancery Division

Transaction not adventure in trade

Kirkham v Williams (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson

[Judgment May 24]

The profit from a one-off transaction of purchase, development and sale of a property by a self-employed dealer/contractor did not arise from an adventure in the nature of trade and was not assessable to Schedule D income tax. The facts did not provide a sufficient basis in law for general commissioners to find that the property was acquired, not as a capital asset, but as trading stock.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Ralph Gibson dissenting, in allowing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr William B. Kirkham, from the judgment of Mr Justice Vinelott (*The Times* February 4, 1989; [1989] STC 333) that had upheld the determination of Macclesfield commissioners that a £90,000 profit from the sale of Havannah Mills, Congleton, Cheshire, was assessable to income tax.

The Crown was refused leave to appeal. The taxpayer carried on business as a general dealer, demolition contractor and hirer of plant, doing some farming as well. In 1978 he purchased the property and 10 acres for £17,000.

The taxpayer's principal stated purpose in making the purchase was to provide office and storage space for his business. He grew crops and fattened calves on a small scale on part of the land.

In 1977, before completing the purchase, and again in 1978 the taxpayer made unsuccessful

planning applications to build on the land. But in 1980 he acquired permission to erect a substantial four-bedroom house, the subsequent sale of which together with the land gave rise to the £90,000 profit.

Following that sale the taxpayer bought a farm from which he continued to run his business and he increased his interest in farming. His claim to entitlement to roll-over relief in respect of these transactions was refused by his tax inspector.

Mr Giles Goodfellow for the taxpayer; Mr Laurence Henderson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the facts, viewed in the light least favourable to the taxpayer, showed that he acquired the property to provide needed office and storage space for his business. He also intended to develop and sell the site if he could obtain planning permission and if he was able to provide himself with suitable space elsewhere.

Taylor v Good ([1974] 1 WLR 556) established that where a taxpayer, not being a dealer in land, acquired property, enhanced its value and disposed of it at a profit, there was no "trade" unless he had the intention of so disposing of it at the time of its acquisition.

The Crown submitted that the taxpayer acquired the property as trading stock; it was acquired with a sufficient intention to dispose of it as a profit to give it that character. In regard to "dual purpose" cases Mr Henderson placed reliance on *Lawrence v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1963) 1 WLR 663 and *Essington Tankers (Leasing) Ltd v Stokes* (*The Times* February 5, 1991; [1991] 1 WLR 341).

These cases showed that the first question to be answered was whether the transaction was an acquisition of a capital asset, or an acquisition of a trading stock or as a capital asset of the business. Viewed on its own it did not tell you whether the property was acquired as trading stock or as a capital asset of the business.

Thus, account had to be taken of the two purposes attributed to the taxpayer. Clearly the taxpayer's subsidiary purpose of developing and selling could not have been implemented concurrently with his principal purpose of providing business space. To begin with there was no certainty that he would obtain planning permission.

His subsidiary purpose was severely circumscribed: its implementation indefinite in point of time. But was it capable of amounting in law to an intention sufficient to give the property the character of trading stock?

It was not open to the commissioners, having made a

finding which was apt to characterise the transaction as an acquisition of a capital asset, to deny it that character by reason of an intention thus circumscribed and indefinite. Property instructed as to the law it was not open to them to conclude as they had.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON, dissenting, said that the commissioners concluded that there was a single adventure in the nature of trade, commencing with the acquisition, and that the taxpayer intended to and did use the site, in implementation of his principal purpose of providing office and storage space, pending the development and sale of the site.

The commissioners were entitled to find that the whole site was acquired by the taxpayer as trading stock.

Lord Justice Lloyd delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Nourse.

Solicitors: Poole Alcock & Co, Sandbach; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Changing proceedings

Regina v Brent Juvenile Court, Ex parte S

Justices were entitled under section 24 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 to change the proceedings from committal to summary proceedings or the other way about according to what they saw as the justice of the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Owen) so held on May 23 in quashing a decision of Brent Juvenile Jus-

tices committing S, a minor, to crown court trial.

At the committal hearing, several charges were not pursued by the prosecution and the justices wished to consider summary trial but were told by their clerk that they were *functus officio* having decided at an earlier hearing to hold committal proceedings.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the court was not *functus* until it had made a decision one way or the other as to whether or not to commit.

Actual residence not necessary

In re 1-4 White Row Cottages, Bewerley

Before Mr Justice Mummery [Judgment May 23]

The word "dwellinghouse" in the context of the provisions of the Commons Land (Rectification of Registers) Act 1989 as a matter of ordinary language did not necessarily connote actual residence but could include an unoccupied house or one which had become derelict and unfit for human habitation.

Mr Justice Mummery so held in the Chancery Division when deciding that the requirements of section 1(2) of the 1989 Act had been satisfied in respect to an objection given by the 17th Viscount Mountgarret to the registration in 1972, under the Commons Registration Act 1965 of 1-4 White Row Cottages and their front gardens, and that the commoners' commissioner, Mr Martin Rodger for Lord Mountgarret.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the cottages were built as dwellinghouses over 100 years ago. In 1970, pursuant to the Housing Act 1957, they had been condemned as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable cost.

They were now in a derelict state and had not been occupied for some 20 years. The obstacle to their sale and restoration was the existence of the registration in 1972 of the buildings and land as forming part of the village green under the 1965 Act.

Section 22(1) of that Act defined a "town or village green" as "... land ... or on which the inhabitants of any locality have indulged in such sports and pastimes as of right for not less than 20 years". The relevant period of 20 years was that immediately prior to the passing of the 1965 Act, that is, 20 years from August 5, 1945.

Under the 1965 Act there were no grounds available in the instant case for either amending the register under section 13 or rectifying it under section 14 so as to exclude the four cottages or the land on which they stood.

In July 1990 the notice of objection given by Lord Mountgarret was referred to a commoners' commissioner by North Yorkshire County Council who decided that the word "dwellinghouse" in the 1989 Act meant a building which was actually dwelt in or was at least

capable of being dwelt in; and that the building occupied as four dwellings until some 20 years ago did not now satisfy the requirements of the 1989 Act.

In 1991 the commissioner stated a case whether on the facts he had erred in law in holding that the requirements specified in section 1(2) of the 1989 Act were not satisfied in respect of any part of the land to which the objection related.

His Lordship re-phrased the point of law as follows: In respect of each of the four cottages by specific reference to the relevant statutory requirements: had there been a dwellinghouse on the land at all times since August 5, 1945 and were the cottages dwellinghouses when there was no one dwelling in any of them?

In reaching his conclusion the commissioner had concluded that "dwellinghouse" contemplated actual use and enjoyment of the premises. On that basis the cottages were dwellinghouses during the respective periods of occupation but not when they became empty. They had not been dwellinghouses at all times since August 5, 1945 and therefore fell outside the scope of the 1989 Act.

He found support for that construction in section 1(3) of the 1989 Act in relation to a garden and land ancillary to the dwellinghouse.

In his Lordship's view, the commissioner had construed the provisions of section 1 of the 1989 Act too restrictively. Actual residential occupancy was not a necessary characteristic of a dwellinghouse. As a matter of ordinary language

"dwellinghouse" was capable of including not only a house which was dwelt in but also a house which was constructed or adapted for dwelling in but which might at the relevant time be vacant or even not fit and ready for occupation.

In the absence of a statutory definition "dwellinghouse" should be construed in its ordinary meaning in the context of the particular statutory provision and of the 1989 Act as a whole.

Adopting that approach it could therefore be concluded that the cottages were dwellinghouses at all times during the period from August 5, 1945 to the dates on which they were vacated, that is, in 1968, 1971 and 1972.

After being vacated the cottages had not ceased to exist; their physical structure, character and nature remained the same: they had not ceased to be dwellinghouses merely because they were not dwelt in; although dilapidated and unoccupied they were still dwellinghouses.

There appeared to be no reasonable purpose in Parliament drawing a distinction between a house which was lived in for the whole of the relevant 20-year period and a house which was not lived in at all times during the relevant period.

As to the reference in section 1(3) to a garden, private garage or outbuildings "used and enjoyed" with the dwellinghouses, those words did not connote actual use and enjoyment any more than dwellinghouse in that context connoted "actual residence".

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Patrese keeps Williams in hunt

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN MEXICO CITY

THE Mexican grand prix, the sixth round of the Formula One world championship, was won by Riccardo Patrese, ahead of his team-mate, Nigel Mansell, and Ayrton Senna, the reigning world champion.

Normally this would be newsworthy enough, as it is only the fourth time the amiable Italian driver has taken the chequered flag in well over 200 races. Reliability has always been Patrese's middle name, and this season he has confirmed that, as he has repeatedly managed to bring home car and points to keep Williams in the hunt in the constructors' championship.

But what was extraordinary in the race, which took place at the Hermanos Rodriguez circuit on the outskirts of Mexico City, was the pugnacious way in which Patrese fought back from fourth place to recapture the lead, and then fought it out with Mansell, who produced a charge frightening in its intensity. Until the Englishman's onslaught, Patrese was easily controlling the race, lapping steadily, and managing to keep a cushion of 22 seconds behind him and those behind.

Patrese had started in

pole position, an achievement in itself, as he had borne the brunt of a particularly vicious kind of Montezuma's revenge during Friday's qualifying session. But not wishing to get involved in an early dogfight, he held back and went into the first bend in fourth place. Thirteen laps later he had overtaken Jean Alesi, Senna and Mansell, none of them easy rollovers when it comes to a fight, but the quiet, unassuming northern Italian, aged 36, had the measure of them all.

When Mansell started charging, it looked like another quixotic gesture from the British driver, good for the crowd and the television ratings, but of no great substance. Ten laps from the end, he was still lapping a full second faster than Patrese, having set a succession of fresh fastest times, four seconds below the field's steady pace of 1min 20sec. We were about to witness something special. Mansell kept up the pressure, always lapping a second faster than the Italian, who was just keeping the hunter at bay.

Three laps to go and Mansell managed only half a second advantage on his rival. The challenge was

over. Patrese sat in his car, drained. Mansell walked up to him and shook him by the hand. Behind the two Williams drivers — nearly a minute behind — was Senna, exhausted by a car, which, in his words, is not the equal either in engine or in chassis of the FW14 manufactured in Didcot and powered by Renault's V10.

It was a race full of drama, so much that it is hard to pick the highlight. But one that escaped many people's attention concerned the fourth-placed Andrea de Cesaris. Yes, the same man who for so many years has been the butt of cruel jokes from some who should know better. In the middle of all the excitement over Patrese's victory, few saw the Jordan spluttering to a halt a few yards from the finish line. He was helped over the line by marshals and was promptly disqualified. This was a cruel blow to the team as just a few laps earlier, Bertrand Gachot, who had also raced beautifully and was in the points, had gone off, banished by a recalcitrant gearbox.

De Cesaris was in tears, the team dazed. Eddie Jordan decided to lead from the front. After reading the rule



Hats off to success: Patrese celebrates his victory in the Mexican grand prix

book, he stormed into the race office, pointing out that once a race is declared over, and it had after Senna had crossed the line, the cars are placed where they are on the track, thus de Cesaris could not be penalised. A quick piece of thinking from Jordan and a deserved fourth place for the much abused de Cesaris.

DETAILS FROM MEXICO

RESULTS: 1. R. Patrese (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 20min 32.25sec (122.840mph); 2. N. Mansell (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 21min 1.33sec; 3. A. Senna (McLaren Honda), 67 laps, 1hr 21min 57.25sec; 4. A. de Cesaris (Jordan), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 5. R. Barrichello (Benetton Ford), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 6. E. Berrard (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 7. G. Montecarlo (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 8. T. Boutsen (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 9. J. Herbert (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 10. S. Brundle (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 11. J. Agnew (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 12. S. Nakagawa (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 13. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 14. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 15. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 16. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 17. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 18. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 19. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec; 20. J. J. Lehto (Williams Renault), 67 laps, 1hr 22min 1.33sec.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 6 rounds): Drivers: 1. Senna, 44pts; 2. Patrese, 20.5; 3. Mansell (20); 4. Barrichello, 16; 5. Montecarlo, 12.5; 6. A. Prost (11); 7. G. Berger (10); 8. McLaren (10); 9. J. Agnew (9); 10. J. Herbert (8); 11. J. J. Lehto (8); 12. J. J. Lehto (8); 13. J. J. Lehto (8); 14. J. J. Lehto (8); 15. J. J. Lehto (8); 16. J. J. Lehto (8); 17. J. J. Lehto (8); 18. J. J. Lehto (8); 19. J. J. Lehto (8); 20. J. J. Lehto (8).

RACING

TGWU plans to aid conditions for stable staff

By JOHN YOUNG

TODAY, as thousands of racegoers brush up their morning suits or put the final touches to their hats for the start of the annual pilgrimage to Royal Ascot, the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) will be drawing attention to a distinctly less opulent aspect of racing, namely the working conditions of stable staff.

Brian Cox, the union's national officer, has declined to discuss the "radical new plan" which he intends to unveil today. But, however imaginative it proves to be, it is unlikely to elicit much more than sympathy.

Whereas the TGWU, which absorbed the farm workers' union some years ago, is the recognised negotiating body on agricultural wages, it no longer has any standing so far as racing is concerned.

Two years ago it lost its place on the National Joint Council, after refusing to give details of its membership, and negotiations with the National Trainers' Federation are now conducted by the Stable Lads' Association.

The SLA is regarded by the TGWU as a "sweetheart union", one that is prepared to play along with the bosses. It is a charge that Bill Adams, the SLA's national secretary, firmly

rejects, but he is uncomfortably aware that he represents only a small minority of the 5,500 stable staff.

In December 1989 the SLA succeeded in negotiating a 25 per cent increase in basic wages, the highest ever. But it was 25 per cent of very little; the minimum wage for grade A employees, those with at least seven years' experience, is still only £145.69, and attempts to negotiate a further increase at the beginning of this year broke down.

Adams blamed the apathy of stable lads — the term includes both men and women — in not only living on the backs of his members, but in allowing themselves to be exploited.

Some trainers do, of course, pay well above the minimum rate and are able to accommodate their staff in hostels. But the older married workers need their own homes, and most training centres tend to be in expensive parts of the country.

It can be argued — not very convincingly — that, because they chose to work with horses, stable lads should accept the consequences.

A more generous interpretation would be that their devotion to their charges precludes militancy. It will be interesting to hear what Cox has to say.

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Closing date for applications: 10 July 1991. Familiarisation visit and interviews will be held in Guernsey on 14, 15 and 16 August.

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Valiant Gattling is thwarted by the paucity of support

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF (final day of three): Glamorgan (19pts) beat Middlesex (3) by 129 runs

THE last time Glamorgan beat Middlesex was in 1969 and they went on to win the county championship. It would be fanciful to forecast the pennant returning to the valleys on the basis of yesterday's victory but what can be said with reasonable certainty is that this year's title will not be retained by Middlesex.

Amid the home team's euphoria as they secured a first championship win after eight years, the previous year's headquarter for more than four years, the most expressive face was that of Mike Gattling. The Middlesex captain had battled valiantly, correctly and chancelously for almost five hours, first seeking to win and then to survive. Such was the paucity of support from his ailing champions that he did not come close to either objective.

Glamorgan won with 10.1 overs in hand and, apart from Gattling's partnerships of 47 with Roseberry and 74 with Emburey, Middlesex came

quietly, five men failing to score. They are still without a championship win after eight matches; this time last season they had won four and were up where they usually belong.

In times of adversity Gattling's greybeard features are never less than descriptive. There was a lot of grunting from him yesterday, plus regular offerings of the hands-on hips teapot, which nobody does better. Nobody could have done better than Gattling in defending the sinking ship, either, but when the end came, the novice, Sylvester, falling to England's previously wayward Wastin, he seemed to have come to terms with the facts of a season which now offers Middlesex precious little hope. Graciously and selflessly, considering he was left four short of a century, he took off his gloves and shook the hands of each grinning Glamorgan player in turn.

These days, there is no indignity in being beaten by Glamorgan. Under the shrewd and composed captaincy of Alan Butcher, they have become a competitive side and, here, the bowling of Frost and

Barwick was ideal for the conditions. What must have dismayed Gattling, however, was that his supposedly superior team did not compete with them.

The target of 341, in what turned out to be 91 overs, was never going to prove straightforward on a pitch favouring stroke play by its sluggish pace and occasional uneven bounce. Gattling, by his part in the captain's collusion, may have erred on the ambitious side in the deal he accepted. And yet, as he and Emburey showed during the afternoon, only sensible batting was needed.

Well though Emburey played, No. 6 is at least one place too high for him. More alarming is that the tall carries no suggestion of permanence and that, of the top five, only Gattling is in prime form.

Hutchinson went early, caught down the legside by the excellent Metson, and Roseberry never convinced during his sketchy 37. Brown, such a rock of consistency last year, continued his lean patch and Ramprakash was out second ball for nought.



High flier: Viv Richards, captain of the West Indians, hits Nick Cook for six into the top of the members' stand

Gooch passes French exam

From IVO TENNANT IN THEORY, FRANCE

THIS match may have been for no greater remuneration than David East's benefit fund, but Essex were making no concessions to France. They remembered what had happened two years before when MCC left too much to chance. Their victory in a 40-over-a-side contest was by the clinical margin of 70 runs.

Graham Gooch's fame has spread even to northern France. So, brought here by Lay & Wheeler of Colchester, he played a reasonable crowd by opening the Essex batting. Indeed, he accorded an attack of one bona fide Frenchman and no great pretensions the respect he will show very different bowling later this week.

Not every England captain would have been excused for having mixed feelings since he failed the French exam he took at school all those years ago. In an oral test he had, he said, been asked to explain what he could see through the window. He described the window itself and consequently failed.

Now he had some success, making 34 off 46 balls before pulling one Pakistani, Shah-

zada to another, Hafeez, at mid-wicket. There was a celebration in Urdu of the like that will not be seen again until France gain associate membership of the International Cricket Council.

Admittedly, it was only a little less muted when Pringle went for five, also held by Hafeez in the same region. Essex were then 68 for four and stymied more by the lush outfield than the artificial pitch on top of concrete. Thereupon Foster came in and threw the bat to good effect, making 61 off 55 balls. Two sixes were sent in the direction of a wildlife park abutting the boundary.

Having managed to draw with Belgium earlier this summer, France were not too perturbed at being asked to score 182. Alas, they were given a chastening experience. Class told in that only three batsmen reached double figures. As a dinner afterwards Gooch forsook French, but made all the right diplomatic comments. By his very presence he had given *le jeu de cricket* a considerable filip.

SCORES: Essex 181 (38.3 overs, N.A. Foster 61, G. Gooch 34); France 111 (38 overs).

Breezy end to challenge

By JOHN WOODCOCK

LEICESTER (final day of three): Leicestershire (2pts) drew with Surrey (4)

SURREY failed only narrowly to move into a seriously challenging position in the championship at Grace Road yesterday. Needing 276 to beat Leicestershire, at approximately 4.4 runs an over, they finished with 261 for eight.

Through the bad weather of recent weeks Surrey have played less than most other counties. This has been to their advantage, leaving them with matches in hand, and yesterday it would have mattered not a jot if Leicestershire had beaten them. With the ball turning at one end, Willey and Potter, Leicestershire's two spinners, were given plenty of bowling, and quite a bright and breezy evening brought some bright and breezy cricket.

With Bicknell and Ward in fine form, and Ali Khan and Thorpe doing their bit, Surrey were in the running most of the way. At 209 for three with ten overs to go they looked like doing it; but Ward was caught on the farthest boundary at mid-wicket and what finally thwarted them were two overs from Lewis in

which Greig was kept away from the bowling and Medycott and Feltham were both out. Not only that: by offering a little more carrot in the last over Leicestershire themselves could have won.

The day had begun with Greig declaring Surrey's first innings 142 behind. This was necessary to make up for the loss of Saturday's play. Leicestershire's reciprocal declaration came half an hour after lunch, by which time they had made 133 for three in 46.5 overs. Whitaker was the most successful of their batsmen at pushing the score along, helped by two long hops from Medycott to get him quickly off the mark. Still, it was good

| ON THE MARCH 25TH, IT WAS GOOD | | | | | | | |
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| | P | W | L | D | B | S | P |
| Warwick (3) | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 21 | 25 | 10 |
| Essex (2) | 8 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 24 | 28 | 8 |
| Kent (16) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Gloucestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Leicestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Gloucestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Gus (13) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Surrey (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Surrey (17) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Gloucestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Northants (11) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Derbyshire (12) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Middlesex (11) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Gloucestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Worcestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Leics (2) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Worcestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Yorkshire (10) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |
| Gloucestershire (3) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 24 | 7 |

Committee decides not to make changes to the world rankings for the most specialised of tournaments

Seedings stick to computer for Wimbledon

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE Wimbledon committee took the softest of all options in announcing the seedings for this year's tennis championships yesterday. Faced with the prospect of making radical alterations to the world rankings, the seedings committee has stuck by the computer for both the men's and women's singles.

What this means is that, among other absurdities, Monica Seles, who is playing only her third Wimbledon and has yet to go beyond the quarter-finals, is the top seed for the women's singles and Martina Navratilova, who has been champion nine times and is defending her title, is ranked fourth, below Seles, Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini.

Seles, at the age of 17, is the best player in the world at the moment. She has won the French and Australian Open titles and has an outside chance of completing the

Grand Slam. But her record on grass is infinitely inferior to the other three, and by her own admission, she is not ready to win the Wimbledon title.

Navratilova, though 34, has been in the last nine finals, winning seven, and has shown no sign of succumbing to the passing of time.

"The seedings committee discussed the case and several other points, but felt there was no overwhelming information to change the 12-month computer," Alan Mills, the Wimbledon referee, said.

No one can argue with the top three names in the men's singles — Stefan Edberg, the world No. 1 and defending champion, Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl — but eyebrows will be raised by the seeding of the new French Open champion, Jim Courier, at No. 4 and Andre Agassi, playing on the grass for the first time in three years, at No. 5.

Emilio Sanchez, a clay-court specialist, is seeded No. 12, though he has not played at Wimbledon for two years and has never been beyond the fourth round. Can he — or, for that matter, Andrei Cherkasov and Karel Novacek — seriously be considered better grass-court players than either Pat Cash, the 1987 champion, or David Wheaton, a finalist at the Stella Artois on Sunday?

Wimbledon is the only grand slam which still reserves the right to ignore the world rankings and adjust its seedings according to a player's ability on grass, the most specialised of all surfaces.

But in a year in which some glaring changes needed to be made, the committee has shrunk from the challenge and seriously called into question its right to overrule the computer.

The Australian, the French and the US Opens abide by the computer, which at least avoids arguments. On the whole the committee has made small rather than wholesale changes in the past, but was perhaps chastened by the experience of last year, when it moved John McEnroe up to fourth seed, only to see the American beaten in the first round.

The strange inactivity of the seedings committee, however, should not disguise the strength of the fields for both singles events this year.

In the men's, only the Spaniard, Sergi Bruguera, who is injured, is missing from the top 20. In the women's, four of the top 20 are not in the draw. But just a glimpse of the seedings will make Navratilova feel her age.

WIMBLEDON SEEDINGS

MEN'S SINGLES: 1, S Edberg (Swe); 2, B Becker (Ger); 3, I Lendl (Cze); 4, J Courier (US); 5, A Agassi (US); 6, J McEnroe (US); 7, G Wheaton (US); 8, P Cash (Aus); 9, D Wheaton (US); 10, G Novacek (Cze); 11, E Sanchez (Esp); 12, A Cherkasov (USSR); 13, H Lendl (Cze); 14, K Novacek (Cze); 15, B Gilbert (US); 16, J McEnroe (US); 17, M Seles (Yug); 18, G Graf (Ger); 19, S Seles (Yug); 20, S Graf (Ger); 21, S Seles (Yug); 22, S Graf (Ger); 23, S Seles (Yug); 24, S Graf (Ger); 25, S Graf (Ger); 26, S Graf (Ger); 27, S Graf (Ger); 28, S Graf (Ger); 29, S Graf (Ger); 30, S Graf (Ger); 31, S Graf (Ger); 32, S Graf (Ger); 33, S Graf (Ger); 34, S Graf (Ger); 35, S Graf (Ger); 36, S Graf (Ger); 37, S Graf (Ger); 38, S Graf (Ger); 39, S Graf (Ger); 40, S Graf (Ger); 41, S Graf (Ger); 42, S Graf (Ger); 43, S Graf (Ger); 44, S Graf (Ger); 45, S Graf (Ger); 46, S Graf (Ger); 47, S Graf (Ger); 48, S Graf (Ger); 49, S Graf (Ger); 50, S Graf (Ger); 51, S Graf (Ger); 52, S Graf (Ger); 53, S Graf (Ger); 54, S Graf (Ger); 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